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MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 1976



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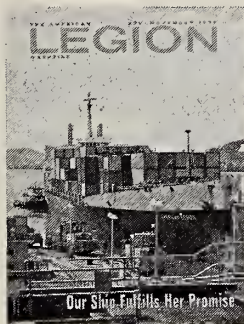
Volume 101, Number 5

National Commander

William J. Rogers

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NOTES ON OUR DESK

Letters to the Editor

SIR: As a disabled veteran I am angered by the thought that youths who ran away from the Vietnam war may be treated like conquering heroes after January. Many will enjoy lives better than my life. Though the disabled have to take lying down such insults to their sacrifices, there is no reason to accept docilely the further insult of a pardon to slackers.

E. T. DOYLE
Philadelphia, PA

SIR: We were amazed and ashamed when the convention booed Governor Carter, a man who had courage to show his conviction.

MARGARET N. GRAY
Bridgeton, NJ

SIR: Now that Jimmy Carter has told us the difference between amnesty and pardon, I suppose he will tell us the difference between Tweedle-Dum and Tweedle-Dee.

ROBERT C. HAGOPIAN
South Hamilton, MA

SIR: We shouldn't invite politicians to speak at our convention. We should get involved in defeating those who oppose our stands.

THOMAS M. EVON
Saginaw, MI

SIR: We have been used and abused by Governor Carter at the Seattle convention. Can you see him supporting right-to-work laws at an AFL-CIO convention, or opposing busing or desegregation at an NAACP meeting? He was gambling that he would pick up more support than he would lose from Legionnaires and others opposed to amnesty.

HUGH R. MURPHY
Villa Park, IL

SIR: As a Legionnaire I found the spectacle of the convention shouting "no, no" at Governor Carter disgusting. Our Constitution gives everybody the right to express his views . . . where was the Legion when during the Vietnam period many avoided the draft by continuously staying in one school after another. Those with financial re-

sources, those politically connected and those mentally proficient to pass enough subjects never served. The inequity that penalized those unable to use any loopholes should be looked into.

HARRY GOLDSMITH
Chesterfield, SC

Editor's note: Historically, the Legion has supported the principle of universal military service.



SIR: There can be no equivocation toward draft evaders and deserters who demand the privileges of our society while dodging their responsibilities. Many sought refuge in other countries . . . in so doing they made their beds and they deserve nothing better than being forced to lie in them.

HAROLD H. WHITE
Joplin, MO

SIR: As a combat veteran of World War II and with ten years service (1943-53) I loved the Army and initially looked upon Vietnam pro-

Panama Canal Defenses Grow

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, TX, and Sen. Lawton Chiles, FL, have asked that their names be added to the list of U.S. senators who have formally declared themselves against any changes in the Panama Canal treaty that would weaken U.S. control over the waterway and its defenses. Thirty-nine other senators were listed in the September "Notes On Our Desk" section of The American Legion Magazine.

testers and draft dodgers with disdain and disbelief. That was until I learned that our noble leaders had lied about our involvement in Southeast Asia. Then I realized those protesters and draft dodgers had been far smarter than I . . . It seems only fair that if the commander-in-chief can be granted a full and complete pardon, then those who had no appetite for conflict also should be pardoned. . . . However, having served on general courts-martial for deserters, there can be no blanket amnesty for this serious offense.

MELVIN A. GOODSPEED, JR.
Chevy Chase, MD

SIR: We who fought off invaders of our land, tyrants of oppression and cruelty, and conquered them; then forgave them their sins, helped them up off their knees; have we no mercy for our own?

ANTHONY F. STELZNER
Rockville, MD

SIR: How many Legion posts delved into the causes and effects of the Vietnam conflict? Did older veterans discuss the conflict with Vietnam era veterans? Governor Carter obviously did his homework. The American Legion obviously did not.

DANIEL F. GOODE
Denver, CO

SIR: The American Legion should have applied a famous American saying: "I may disagree with what you say, but I will defend your right to say it."

CHARLES H. DORR
Milton, WI

SIR: Your article about the battle of Attu (August) tells it like it was, but I was disappointed that no mention was made of the 7th Infantry Division that took the brunt of the Japanese banzai attack.

JACK J. ABBOTT
Temple, TX

SIR: How wonderful it was to read General MacArthur's eloquent words on "duty, honor, country" (Sept.) I shall see that our children—and their children—read them.

DONALD B. DAVIDSON
Carmel, IN

SIR: General MacArthur stated the rationale for the West Point honor code eloquently, but he didn't practice what he preached when he defied President Truman in Korea. Men who really exemplified the honor code were Gen. George C. Marshall (who never went to West Point); Gen. Omar Bradley; Adm. Chester Nimitz and Adm. Marc Mitscher.

JAMES G. O'BRIEN
Milwaukee, WI

Pennsylvania Appreciation

The Department of Pennsylvania wishes to express its sincere appreciation to all Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, friends, posts, districts and departments, as well as to then National Commander Harry G. Wiles, for their expressions of sympathy in the death and hospitalization of its members and members of their families during the mysterious illness which affected so many who attended our 58th Department Convention. Your deep concern for us during this difficult period proves beyond doubt that "It's Great To Know You Belong!"

Joseph V. Adams
Department Commander
Edward T. Hoak
Department Adjutant

SIR: Of all the magazines I have seen utilizing the Bicentennial theme, your July Mauldin cover is by far the most meaningful.

STANLEY G. MAYER
Pittsburgh, PA

SIR: After all the years since 1945 it was a pleasure to meet Willy and Joe again on the cover of the July issue.

RALPH W. ZIMMER
Glendale, OH

SIR: Your use of Bill Mauldin to draw a cartoon for the cover of the American Legion magazine was absolutely the final straw. . . .

LELAND SMITH
Pine Bluff, AK

SIR: I think the July cover by Bill Mauldin is the best I have ever seen.

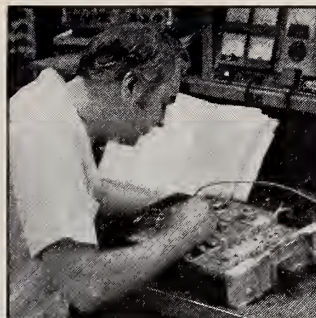
JAMES W. HASTINGS, M.D.
Aledo, IL

SIR: I wish to express my appreciation for the Bicentennial issue (July). Our 1776 leaders gave us a wonderful land at great cost to themselves and their families.

IMAN SIGMAN
Manitowoc, WI

SIR: You state that the grain export market has benefited the taxpayer because the \$4 billion we were paying annually for farm subsidies has been pared to \$500 million (Dateline Washington—Sept.). I am curious to know how this has been spent by our irresponsible Congress.

GUY ROGERS
Kansas City, KA



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The Commander's Message

Where are We Going In the United Nations?

EARLY in the campaign both Presidential candidates agreed that U.S. policies toward the United Nations and UN attitudes toward the United States should not become domestic political issues.

President Ford and Governor Carter welcomed a French initiative in the Security Council to postpone any vote on membership for North Vietnam until after the American election. It came after UN Ambassador William Scranton made it clear (with bipartisan support) that the United States would veto any application by the Hanoi-Saigon Communist regime that came before Nov. 2.

The candidates' caution is perfectly understandable. The United Nations is a controversial subject; in some circles it is politically explosive; for many Americans the high hopes of 1945 have given way to a weary cynicism. The reasons are complex, perhaps too complex for a full or fair public airing during a heated Presidential campaign, but not too complicated for a thorough examination in quieter times.

It is just such an examination that the American Legion calls for; a sober look back over the three decades since Dumbarton Oaks, Lake Success and the San Francisco Opera House; a serious quest for answers about the declining American role in the world organization.

This is not a jingoistic demand that we quit the UN, or that the UN quit American shores.

But it is obvious to all that major changes have occurred in the world organization, changes that have drastically reduced its ability to maintain peace and encourage economic stability.

The fever of independence has multiplied its numbers, but its maturity has not grown apace.

In the Middle East, Africa and the Far East we have seen UN majorities shun their responsibilities—even aggravate dangerous situations.

The United States has spent the last 60 years in the forefront of man's struggle for self-determination. The men and women of the American Legion are bound together by their service to that ideal around the world.

Their accomplishments in uniform broke the chains and fanned the ambitions and aspirations of free men on every continent. Yet, today, Americans see a United

Nations that is often marshalled against them; a United Nations in which a majority too often supports petty bigots, pursues selfish interests, turns away from reason and man's inherent rights of pride, property and privacy.

Why?

Have we Americans failed in our obligations of leadership?

Have we surrendered or lost our capacity to inspire in the contest against totalitarianism?

Have we been so concerned with our own needs that we have lost sight of the needs of others?

Are we tired sentries holding freedom's shield? Do those we would protect see weaknesses we don't acknowledge?

These all are reasons for a new analysis of the American role in the



United Nations.

Our election is forcing us to make serious appraisals of our own national character.

I have just returned from a trip to the Far East. In Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines—men await our decisions. They know our futures are linked inextricably. And once the votes have been counted, we must assess the outcome and reassess our role in the world. The question is not: How can we relieve ourselves of our responsibilities to other people? The question is: How can we best apply the wealth and talents God has bestowed on the United States for the protection of man's inalienable rights?

Astronauts and space scientists have demonstrated dramatically how small our earth really is; how interdependent man really is. The United Nations was created as a vehicle to enhance, enrich and foster this interdependence. To date it has not fulfilled its mission.

Perhaps, in some small way, a reappraisal will help. Certainly it is worth the effort.

William J. Rogers

What Did You Do in the War, Mom?

Dear Daughter:

How are things at college, dear? Won't be long before graduation and job hunting time! I know you aren't sure what you want to do, so maybe Mom can give you a suggestion.

Once or twice you've asked me what it was like when I was in the Waves during World War II. I never really answered you. But I have been thinking about it.

I enlisted in the Waves in September of 1944 on my 20th birthday. Boot camp was Hunter College in the Bronx.

I guess the most exciting thing that happened at Hunter was the day President Franklin Roosevelt reviewed the Waves, for the first and only time. It rained on October 21, 1944, so the Regimental Review was held inside the Kingsbridge Armory, a huge place.

There were 2,000 Waves standing in formation and several thousand others watching. We heard what sounded like thunder; it was the civilians outside cheering and shouting. The armory doors opened and the car with President Roosevelt and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia drove in to the strains of "Hail to the Chief."

It was a big thrill, Kathy.

After boot camp, I spent three months at Aerographer's School in Lakewood, NJ, learning to guess what the weather was going to be. I hoped for a glamorous assignment, but instead they sent me to "Siberia"—Washington, DC.

Why Siberia? Because there were tens of thousands of servicewomen there, as well as tens of thousands of civilian girls. All in all, I think there were maybe 300 men!

I did have a fascinating job, though. My office was trying to break the Japanese weather code. We worked with captured enemy documents, some of them blood-stained, and spent months decoding them and trying to form logical weather patterns.

I was still in Washington when President Roosevelt died. I remember the radio played nothing but organ music for days.

And I remember Aug. 14, 1945. We were all uptight because the war was almost over. We read the headlines and stayed glued to the radio.

I was in the Waves band with my trusty clarinet and we were practicing on the roof.

"The war is over!" the announcer said. "The Japanese have surren-

dered. The war is over!"

The officer ordered us to stand and play "The Stars and Stripes Forever." Forty of us stood there, tears streaming down our faces and played that march. I'll never forget it.

Soon after VJ Day I was transferred to the Jacksonville (FL) Naval Air Station where I met a cute, red-headed sailor whom you know as Daddy!

I saw enemy POWs for the first

time at Jacksonville. The Italians were okay but the Germans really scared me.

Well, honey, those are some of the highlights of my 19 months in the Waves. I know the Navy really did a lot for me; I only hope I did something for it. Think about it; I'd love to have a daughter in the service. Write soon,

Love,
MOM

—Shelia W. Martin



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ARE WE NO. 2?

Father of H-Bomb Fears America Has Lost Arms, Technology Lead



By DR. EDWARD TELLER

THE UNITED States finds itself in a new situation with respect to technology. In 1970, for the first time in the 20th century, we imported more manufactured goods than we exported. This is usually attributed to the fact that American workers are used to a higher standard of living and that they successfully demand greater wages. This is true. However, it was also true throughout the history of American industrialization. Even 100 years ago, American workers were paid approximately twice as much as the corresponding people in England who, in turn, were paid more than the working man in Continental Europe.

Due to the Homestead Act, many Americans had a chance to go west and settle on their own land and could not be induced to work for a pittance.

In spite of this, our industry kept ahead of others due to innovations in technology. This, in turn, was based on the circumstance that science, and particularly inventions based on science, were regarded with great respect.

When Jules Verne sent the first man to the moon, the enterprise was American. A century later this prophecy came true but not without some competition from the Russians.

The roots of practical American science go back to the Land Grant College Act of 1862, which was passed, remarkably enough, in the midst of a tragic war. Remember its language:

"The leading object shall be, without excluding other scientific and classical studies and including military tactics, to teach such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, in such manner as the legislatures of the States may respectively prescribe, in order to promote the liberal and practical edu-

cation of the industrial classes in the several pursuits and professions of life."

It was, and is, an excellent charter. The educational institutions developed under its provisions have served the nation well.

Unfortunately, the spirit that created the Land Grant Colleges seems to be a thing of the past. In the last two decades there has been an increasing trend in the United States to discredit technology.

Many young people today are no longer interested in technology. A few oppose it as *The evil* which ruins our lives. If this tendency continues, not only will our country lose its comforts but also its freedom.

This anti-technological movement certainly does not exist in Russia.

*'... Russia has
actually won
the Cold War ...'*

Scientific books, and I mean scientific books of the highest caliber, which are published in the United States in tens of thousands are published in Russia in hundreds of thousands.

Notice the slogans of the anti-technologists, the modern Luddites whose purpose is to smash the machines. One sign that sticks in my mind is "Don't spindle, fold, or mutilate." It was carried in Berkeley in 1964 attacking the electronic computer.

Actually, the computing machines and, more generally, electronics, is the one field in which the United States remains truly preeminent. It

is remarkable that the fear of what is new should prevent us from eliminating boring jobs from our lives. The computers set us free so that we can concentrate on the pursuit of new and imaginative ideas.

A similar paradox is the opposition to nuclear reactors.

A professor of engineering, Petr Beckmann, has published a thoughtful and readable book whose title describes its content very well, "The Health Hazards of *Not* Going Nuclear" (available through the Golan Press, Dept. of Engineering, Univ. of Colorado, Boulder, CO). Indeed, in the operation of almost 60 big industrial reactors in the United States, not a single person was hurt or endangered due to the nuclear nature of reactors. This simple and most remarkable fact has been drowned out by the chorus of protesters. The more absurd they are, the more they seem to be believed.

The case of nuclear energy is particularly important. The United States has maintained a prominent position in this field. The reactors do not damage the environment. They deliver energy for an acceptable price and could replace the energy derived from oil that costs us \$30 billion per year.

Also, Arab rulers could stop delivery of desperately needed oil any time. Worse, the Russians could prevent oil tankers from crossing the Atlantic because our Navy is no longer strong enough to guarantee the freedom of the seas.

Indeed, ten years ago the United States was No. 1 in military strength. This was most obvious during the Cuban Missile Crisis. It now seems probable we are No. 2, although many do not admit it.

But one consequence is obvious: No. 2 is not comfortable.

A second point: the United States wants peace in a more determined way than the Soviet Union.

The last statement will be questioned. In the past 30 years, Russia has never been involved in protracted

military action. The United States was involved twice—in Korea and in Vietnam. Thus, some say the Russian government is peace loving, Washington is not.

I differ. The Russians have been involved in military actions in East Germany, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia. These actions were quite brief and quite inexpensive from the Russian point of view. Each tightened control and each was carried out successfully in a complete and swift manner.

The wars the United States has fought did not serve the purpose to tighten or establish control. They rather tried to prevent the spread of Communist domination. In Indochina, a costly effort led to disaster. In Korea, a somewhat less costly undertaking was, at least temporarily, successful. The last chapter may not have been written yet.

The contrast between the USSR and the United States military involvements is not that the former is peace loving, the latter warlike. I am rather driven to the unhappy conclusion that the former is successful, the latter tends to be less successful or unsuccessful.

From the point of view of continued peace, *it is a sad fact that Russia has actually won the Cold*

War. Detente is one way for us to acknowledge this defeat in a relatively inoffensive manner.

Is it true that we are No. 2?

In my opinion, it has been true for some time in terms of land armies and land armaments. It is probably true in the air, most certainly in the exceedingly important field of air defense. *Salt I* made it clear that we are No. 2 in nuclear arms. In the last few years we have yielded the first spot to the Russians on the oceans.

There are two areas where we are still No. 1. These are electronics and battlefield experience. Electronics which has a strong basis in our consumer oriented society happens to have important military applications.

What does one do if one is No. 2? The standard answer is: "Try harder." But in what way?

It is unpopular to say that we should increase our military expenditures. But if we do, we must concentrate on areas where our deficiency is greatest and where the consequences are most dangerous.

We must consider strengthening the Navy. I should not simply advocate the construction of bigger ships. New and efficient developments and inventions are needed urgently.

In a more general way, research and development must be given the highest priority. Military competition has been too frequently called an arms race. This is misleading. The technological competition is much more important. In an arms race what matters is quantity. In the race of technology, the important factor is quality. Without better technology, the long-range prospects for freedom look dim.

Perhaps the most important objective step we could take is to strengthen civil defense. For No. 1 to neglect civil defense is imprudent; for No. 2, it is insane.

Critics of technology and defense often claim we must first supply the needs and even the whims of our consumer-oriented society.

These interests cannot be served without emphasis on defense, on technology and on education. In the past we may have praised progress too highly, but progress does eliminate internal conflict. It has led to stability and to security and it has helped protect freedom. Compare life in the U.S. and its allied nations with life in the totalitarian countries.

We have the wealth and the ingenuity to reestablish a strong and safe position for our country. We also have some time left, but not much. **END**

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Santa is a Vet

By JERRY D. LEWIS

SANTA CLAUS is a member of The American Legion.

He was the organizer and first commander of his post, and has since been post commander five times.

His address? Santa Claus, IN, 47579, so small it's not even listed in the Rand McNally Road Atlas, but close to the intersection of Highways 162 and 245 in the pleasant rolling hills of southwestern Indiana.

Santa Claus is 82-year-old Jim Yellig, a hearty veteran of both world wars who wears out three Santa costumes a year letting children climb onto his knees. He's official host to hundreds of thousands of tourists who come each year to Santa Claus Land—the nation's first theme amusement park. Yellig has been appearing as Santa Claus for 61 years.

"Wouldn't be surprised if it turns out to be a steady job," he tells you, his bright eyes twinkling.

"They tell you this is Lincoln Country," he goes on, "because he grew up four miles down the road, but they should say it's Legion Country. I guess we've got more Posts per square mile than any place in the country. None as active as Santa Claus Post 242, of course."

Many of the families that visit Santa Claus Land take a photo of their young ones perched on Yellig's knees, then use the picture as their Christmas card. Christmas cards are used by people all over the world and have become "Big Business" in less than a century. More than 200 companies in the United States print some four billion cards a year. An average family receives or sends about 75 every December.

In the early 1800's, British school-boys used to purchase a sheet of paper decorated along the four borders with drawings of holly,



Castle-like post office at Santa Claus, IN, and Jim Yellig at work (inset)

sprigs of ivy and other holiday greenery.

No one is absolutely sure who originated the Christmas card, but most authorities give the honor to Sir Henry Cole, a member of Queen Victoria's court. In 1843, Cole, too busy to write his usual Christmas notes by hand, asked one of the better artists of the day—John Horsley—to design a holiday card for him.

Horsley created a card which folded into thirds. The center panel of this triptych showed a family with parents and children, each toasting the receiver of the card with a raised glass of wine.

Until the 1880's, most Christmas cards in the United States were imported from England. One man changed all that. He was Louis Prang, a German political refugee who fled to the United States in search of freedom. He proved a combination of Thomas Edison and P. T.

Barnum. Experimenting in color lithographs, he perfected a process which sometimes used as many as 20 plates. In the late 1870's, he produced a line of exquisite Christmas cards at his shop in Roxbury, MA.

The overwhelming choice for a Christmas card decoration, though, is the likeness of jolly old Santa. Thomas Nast, a political cartoonist, first drew Santa as we know him for Harper's Illustrated Weekly near the close of the 19th century.

Children naturally have always been loud, enthusiastic supporters of St. Nick and that's how Santa Claus, IN, got its name back in 1852.

The fifty or so people living in this area of Indiana decided to form a town. Meeting on the afternoon before Christmas, their first problem was choosing a name for the new community. One after another was suggested and voted down. Suddenly one of the neighbors, something of

a prankster, showed up in a Santa Claus costume.

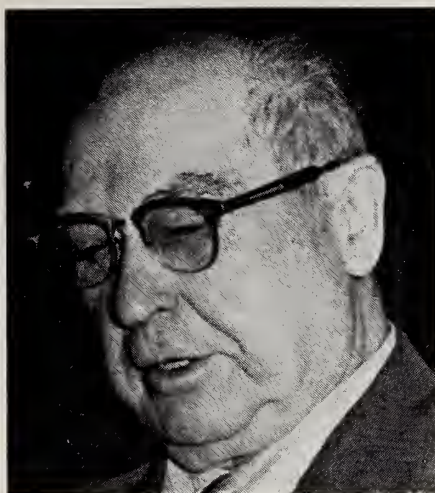
"Call it Santa Claus!" cried one of the children. The other children echoed his shout, the elders agreed, and voted it unanimously. Four years later when the village got its first post office there was little excitement. In fact, Santa Claus, Indiana, was such a well kept secret that Jim Yellig's World War I shipmates on the USS *New York* wouldn't believe him when he told them his hometown. It did get him the shipboard nickname "Santa" and as things turned out, that changed his life.

Coming back across the Atlantic during the winter of 1915, the crew decided to put on a Christmas party for the children who lived in the shabby tenements around the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

"Every man chipped in a dollar," Yellig recalls. "We raised \$1,400. In 1915, that bought a lot of toys, candies, fruit and soft drinks for the kids, but we didn't have one important thing—Santa Claus."

Because of his nickname, Yellig was elected.

"I was 22 and the idea of talking to a lot of kids I didn't know scared me, but I couldn't get out of the assignment. When the party was over, though, and I had to take off the costume, I was kind of disappointed. Seeing those kids really



Jim Yellig
Santa Since 1915

happy that night made me understand for the first time that the way to be happy is to make somebody else happy."

Jim continued to play Santa every year he stayed in the service.

Mustered out and back home in Indiana in 1930, Yellig took to visiting an old friend, Jim Martin, postmaster of Santa Claus. The post office occupied a corner of Martin's general store.

One day, Yellig saw Martin toss a stack of letters into an empty basket. Martin explained that a couple of years earlier, Bob Ripley had men-

tioned Santa Claus, IN, in one of his widely syndicated "Believe It or Not!" newspaper cartoons. A handful of youngsters reasoned that Santa Claus must live there. They wrote to him.

Martin opened the letters the first year and answered each one. The word spread. Now, Martin groaned, there were too many Santa letters for him to handle.

Yellig, who still played Santa every year at the church festival, volunteered to handle the chore. He, his wife and a few friends handled it until 1935 when Jim appealed to the members of his Legion Post.

"I just thought that every child who wrote to Santa Claus deserved an answer," Yellig says. "What can anybody do that's more important than making children happy?"

Within a few years, though, even Santa Claus Post 242 was overwhelmed by the mountain of mail. Other Legion Posts in the area responded with letterwriters and money to help pay the now considerable postage fees.

Charles V. (Vic) Rheinlander, Grand Voiture of Indiana's 40 & 8, and a member of Evansville Post 187, came in to coordinate the efforts. At age 70, Rheinlander is still raising money and supplies from posts all over the country.

(Continued on page 50)

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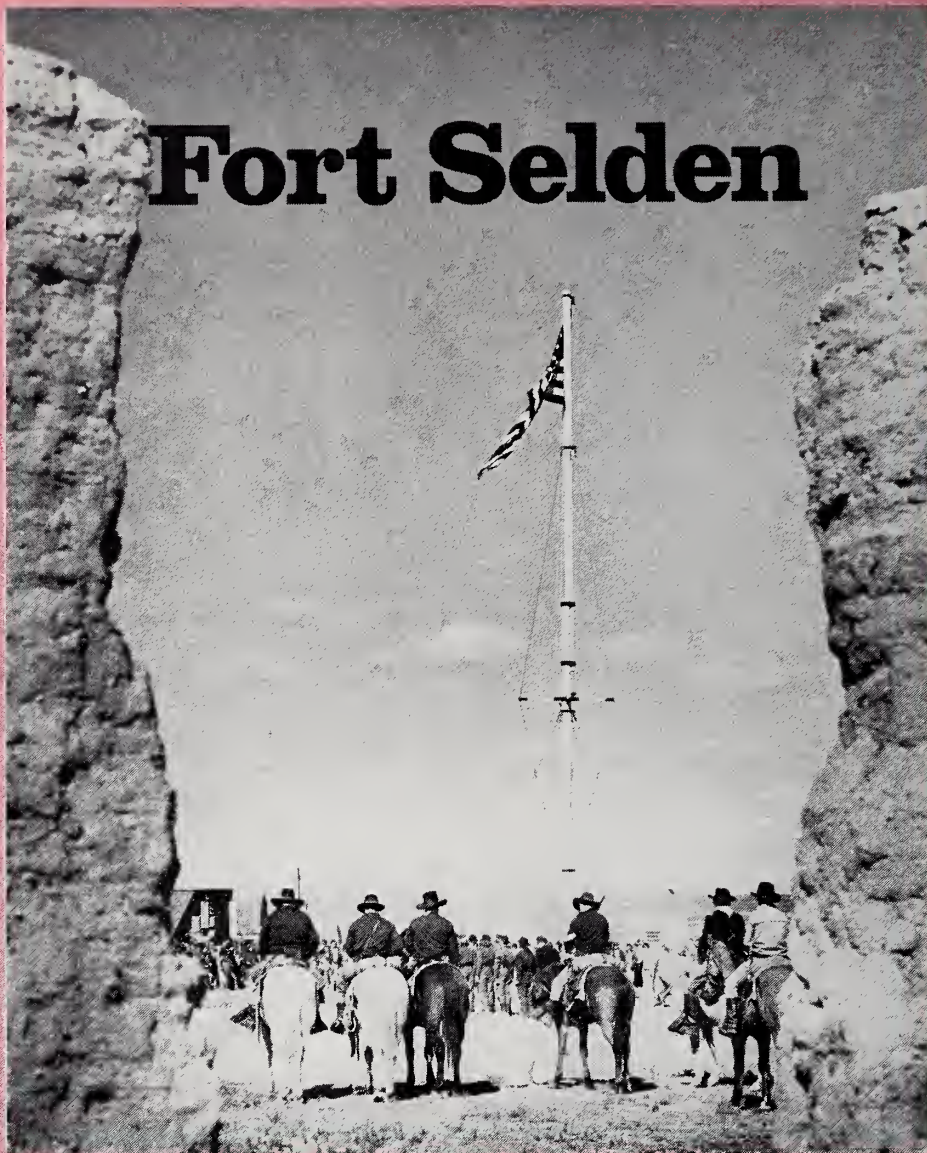
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Fort Selden



ALONE HAWK circles effortlessly against a brilliant blue sky. Below, two men in blue uniforms step from the shadows of crumbling adobe walls and cross the empty, sunbaked parade ground, past the tall white flagpole where the red, white and blue banner hangs listlessly in the mid-afternoon heat.

This is Fort Selden, NM, for 30 years a sentinel point in the development of the Southwest and now New Mexico's newest historic monument.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur spent his boyhood years playing on the parade ground in the

Off The Highway

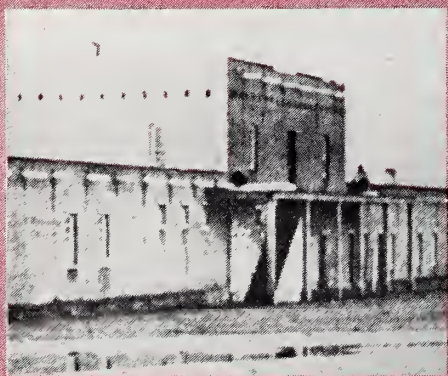
1880's. His father was then a captain commanding ten companies of infantry and cavalry. For the troopers, Fort Selden was undoubtedly a dreary, boring assignment with the monotony broken only by the arrival of occasional wagon trains or intermittent actions against Indians, but to young MacArthur, life on the frontier was an exciting challenge. In later years the general often spoke with nostalgia of Fort Selden.

The mountains, river and desert are the same as they were when the fort was first occupied in April 1865 by C and M companies of the 1st California Volunteers and F company, 1st Infantry, New Mexico Volunteers. The garrison was established after Confederate columns from Texas struck west during the Civil War. It was augmented after the war to protect settlers and wagon trains against hostile Indians. Its importance began to wane after the railroad penetrated the region in 1881, and in 1892 the army abandoned the fort to the desert sun and wind and the ghosts of old campaigners. The blue clad rangers of the New Mexico Park Department are the first uniforms the fort has seen in 80 years.

The white man first arrived in this part of New Mexico in 1598 when Don Juan de Onate and Spanish soldiers crossed the Rio Bravo near Fort Selden. At the ford the Spanish buried a comrade, Pedro Robledo. The large rocky promontory is known as Mt. Robledo.

The fort can be reached via New Mexico routes 32 and 53 from Gallup.

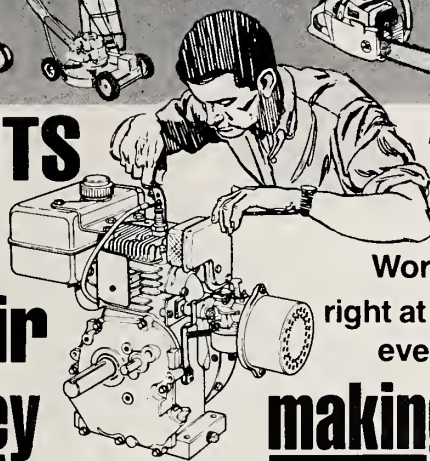
—James A. Mulkern



◀ Western pageants recapture scenes at Fort Selden where wind and sun have crumbled old barracks that are remembered only in photos from the 1880's and 90's. That was the period when Capt. Arthur MacArthur was in command and posed for this photo with his son Douglas. New Mexico ranger pinpoints Fort Selden



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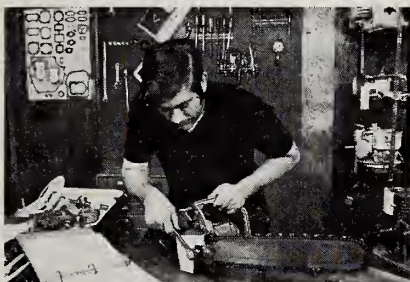
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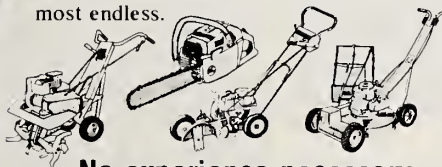
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The Vietnam War Has Been Put On



Thousands of file boxes at Federal Records Center in Suitland, MD (inset) hold story of Vietnam, its hopes, disappointments

and its cost. Dr. John Henry Hatcher (inset), a former Air Force Master Sergeant with a PhD, supervises use of records

By STERLING SLAPPEY

As Dr. John Henry Hatcher sorted his mail one cold morning last winter in his office deep in the bowels of the Forrestal Building on Washington's elegant Independence Avenue, his secretary pointed to one letter.

"This one will grab you in the heart and squeeze," she said quietly.

Dr. Hatcher read the letter twice. Then he called in two of his best researchers and told them to go immediately to the suburban Maryland town of Suitland where the U. S. Army keeps its Vietnam war records in a building the size of 20 football fields. The researchers were to get the answers to every question raised in the letter—every shred of information relating to a tiny, rather unimportant, all-but-forgotten battle called "Fire Base Ripcord" on Hill

805 in Vietnam in July 1970 where men of the 501st Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division, fought North Vietnamese regulars and Viet Cong.

The Americans didn't come off too well that day. There were losses on the ground and Army helicopters were hit. One of them went into the ground, killing several men, including the pilot, a young second lieutenant. It was his third day in Vietnam.

Hatcher directed that his researchers get copies of the after-action report, comments by commanders, names and addresses of living witnesses and of the men killed in the action. And, they were to get copies of recommendations for decorations. Hatcher wanted to answer that letter. It was written by the father of the young helicopter pilot. He wanted to know how his son was killed. He

wanted to compose a memorial to the dead boy.

Within an hour, on reaching the Federal Records Center at Suitland, the researchers had the story of Fire Base Ripcord. Former Master Sergeant Hatcher and his small staff of 15 archivists, clerks and secretaries had once again demonstrated that they are efficient keepers of Army records of the Vietnam conflict, as well as other selected Army records going all the way back to the Civil War. (One box of 1874 records arrived this spring after lying untouched for 102 years. They were handwritten and dealt with Indian fighting in the West.) The Records Center is part of the National Archives, operated by the General Services Administration, the U. S. Government's massive housekeeping agency.

Uncle Sam's repository at Suitland

The Shelf



holds millions of reports, tapes and films relating to Vietnam—the first war America lost. No one knows just how many papers and reports are there. No one ever has, or ever will, count them. They are filed under an intricate numbering system. The master index of references and cross-references is understood only in the arcane world of computer managers. The files add up to what has been called “The most exquisitely documented war in history.” The Vietnam war has literally been put on the shelf—the filing shelf.

The back and forth of war for 700 military units, plus the papers of the Joint Command for Southeast Asia, are there at Suitland. Each uniform beige cardboard box 10 x 12 x 15 inches holds 2,500 sheets of paper. The boxes are arrayed on steel shelving 14 decks high. They are maintained in 20 giant air conditioned, dust free, rooms which

archivists call “stacks.” Each stack has about 45,000 square feet of storage space. The Vietnam war records alone take up 40,000 linear feet of shelving and more reports arrive weekly from scattered bases in the Pacific and from Thailand.

Although the story of the young helicopter lieutenant tore at the heart, Hatcher's researchers did find satisfaction in their search-and-find operation. A father's questions were answered. Other search jobs bring another kind of satisfaction. Some put the lie to those who would steal from the government and expose others who make fraudulent claims of heroism.

John Hatcher and McKeever Rose, one of his veteran researchers, last year saved the U. S. Government \$240,000 in a claim brought by a Vietnamese businessman. The cost of the search was \$23.50.

The Vietnamese leased his Saigon hotel to the government for several years during the late 1960's and early 1970's for use as a dormitory for Americans. Several months before the collapse of the Saigon Government, and the American pullout in the spring of 1975, the man demanded compensation for damages allegedly done to his hotel by the Americans who occupied it. There were inspections, claims, counter-claims, demands, rebuttals and much work for lawyers on both sides. Finally, the U. S. Government paid the Vietnamese \$40,000 and accepted a quit claim from him.

Soon after the collapse of President Thieu's regime, the Vietnamese businessman appeared in America where he intended to take up a new life. He had brought money and valuables but he put in a new claim for compensation for damages done to his Saigon hotel by Americans. He demanded \$240,000, never admitting he already had been paid.

He might have gotten away with it except for the records at Suitland. Hatcher was directed to turn up whatever he could. McKeever Rose dug into the files. In exactly three and a half hours the evidence of fraud was put into the hands of the Adjutant General's office and the Department of Justice. The evidence included a copy of the quit claim and the entire background on the previous case with sworn testimony of various witnesses. The Vietnamese businessman backed down fast—but not fast enough. He will not be getting the U. S. citizenship he wanted.

“This little incident,” John Hatcher said, “fits my concept of this job which is to supply informa-

Where Are Your Records?

Individual personnel records for all servicemen are kept in St. Louis, MO, and information from them can be obtained by writing:

National Personnel Records
Center

Military Personnel Records
9700 Page Boulevard
St. Louis, MO 63132

Information concerning military units, as well as other phases of the Vietnam War, can be obtained by writing these addresses:

Army records: Headquarters, Department of the Army, Records Management Division, Forrestal Building, Washington, DC 20314.

Navy records: Office of Naval History, Washington Navy Yard, Washington, DC 20374.

Air Force records: Office of Air Force History, The Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, AL 36112.

Marine Corp. records: Commandant, U. S. Marine Corps, U. S. Navy Annex, Pentagon, Washington, DC 20370.

Information on some military units operating prior to 1952 is available from:

National Archives and Records Service, Attention: Modern Military Division, Washington, D. C. 20408.

PhD Sergeant Keeps Track

Former Air Force Master Sergeant John Henry Hatcher, 52, now retired, is archivist of the Records Management Division, Department of the Army. He served as bombardier, navigator, radio operator-mechanic and radar scanner in the Pacific area during World War II. Since the war, he has served in Japan, with the Berlin airlift and several tours of duty in Germany, France, the Far East and the United States.

While on active service, he earned his B.A. degree from the University of Nebraska, his Master's degree from Hardin-Simmons University in Texas and his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati. He was the Air Force's first enlisted man to get a Ph.D. while on active duty.

tion to individuals under the Freedom of Information Act; to supply the government with facts it may need, and to get ready for the historians of the future. We already serve many historians, of course, but there will be many, many more in the years ahead."

Most search services provided by the archivists are free of charge. Sometimes when an individual search job strings into many hours, days, sometimes even weeks, charges are levied. But if the search is carried out on behalf of history, if the information needed is for the good of the general public, or if it is needed by a deserving individual in a legitimate cause, there are no charges regardless of the effort.

If the search is for a commercial operation, modest charges are made.

A toy manufacturer recently asked for help with a new war game that involves Vietnam campaigns, battles and skirmishes. Men and units will be moved about on a board with players taking sides. An archivist was told to determine what units were engaged, how, when and what they did. For about \$500 the toy manufacturer was supplied with all the information he can conceivably use.

"When we're finished, his game will be authentic down to the last platoon and last squad," Hatcher said.

The toy manufacturer paid at a rate of \$15 per search-hour. The father of the young helicopter pilot paid nothing.

About 120 requests a month reach the records office from government officials and private individuals. Many requests need only a few minutes work to produce the answer, while others may take several days for two or more archivist-researchers. Hollywood script writers for war movies, historians, state archivists, Congressmen and private individuals are steady clients of the records center. Once the information is handed out, the duty of the records center is complete.

John Hatcher abides by this rule; "We can't do your evaluating for you. We can only tell you what the papers in the files say. You do your own evaluating."

Much material is still classified "top secret," but there have been several occasions when historians, authors and scriptwriters were allowed to see highly classified documents. The writers were first put through security checks, then they had to agree to let the Army see their notes and, further, agree to submit manuscripts to scrutiny before publication.

"We don't do this often, and only in special cases when we think the public good will be served," Hatcher said. "It works like a charm. We have never had any trouble with these people. I don't think we ever will. If we do, that fellow will never see another government document as long as he lives."

Some of the most interesting material are CORDS records. Americans love acronyms and this one stands for Civil Operations for Revolutionary Development Support. The records reflect pacification efforts in Vietnam.

Hatcher and his archivists, and an occasional writer with a necessary security clearance, can walk among the other files, stop occasionally, lift out one of the heavy boxes and reach in—to see what the hand might find. It may be a mundane report on damages to an Army jeep in a Saigon accident. It might be the one para-

Black Market Ruses Exposed By Researchers

graph report filled out by a sergeant or corporal after taking a search dog on patrol to smell out Viet Cong. Oftentimes, it will be a monetary report filed by a Green Beret on activities in a village where the Special Services people were trying to buck up the South Vietnamese.

These reports show how much money was paid to villagers to turn in hiding Viet Cong, how much was given the village leaders to help restore destroyed rice paddies. The war can be traced through these documents—perhaps better traced than by reading the battle reports of major engagements which were written by generals at command headquarters.

"Financial records are the source of most of our knowledge of ancient Babylon," Hatcher said. "All those clay tables show buying, selling, ownership. The Babylonians wanted a permanent record of their money flow and they used clay to inscribe them on. For less important records and such things as literature, they used perishable materials."

The files at Suitland tell how Presi-

dents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson escalated the U. S. involvement in Vietnam; how great battles were fought; how President Richard M. Nixon came to office in 1969 and how the war continued with an undiminishing volume of battle reports and war records; and how finally, the U. S. commitment ended and South Vietnam collapsed. That is recorded, too, at Suitland—one of the most unhappy notes in America's history.

This has given the records center plenty of work. A large percentage of its requests seek confirmation that a soldier did, indeed, win the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, a South Vietnamese decoration, or a Distinguished Service Medal for some act out in the rice paddies or jungle clearings.

Searchers show that most claims are valid and the men are duly honored. Sometimes, claims are totally false.

Recently, a lieutenant who served in Company D, 1st Battalion, 52nd Infantry Regiment, claimed he won a Silver Star for bravery on a night raid against Chu Lai. He never got the medal. Years later he asked the records center if it could confirm that he won the medal? He was a career soldier and a Silver Star on the tunic never hurt anyone. Yes, the researchers said. He did win the Silver Star, but it was never awarded because of confusion during a transfer. Orders have now been cut making the award official.

A colonel asked Hatcher's office to be sure that he had gotten all that was coming to him—a Silver Star, Air Medal and a couple of South Vietnamese decorations. Records showed the colonel was short two additional South Vietnamese decorations. He now has them.

A staff sergeant based in Germany claimed that he was sent to South Vietnam on temporary duty and that he served illustriously, winning commendations. Hatcher's researchers discovered that the man had never left Germany.

Medals and decorations are only part of the business of the center. A corporal disappeared in 1968 while in Saigon on furlough from duty at Long Binh. He was a good kid with a perfect Army record. After three days he was marked AWOL and after 30 days he was declared a deserter. There the matter stood for years. His family, knowing the boy, said he would never have run away, that he must have been killed, and that he should be listed as a missing person. After seven years the family got the case reopened. Hatcher's researchers produced every piece

of paper relating to the corporal. His record was undeniably excellent. He was cleared and is now declared missing in action.

In another case, a deserter claimed that, instead of running away, he was in the 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon suffering from hepatitis. Totally false, the records show.

An American civilian contracted with the federal government to operate a fleet of Army trucks in ship unloadings and in hauling cargoes into the Vietnamese interior. The civilian's job performance was poor and soon trucks began disappearing. In a court action which followed, the government introduced evidence, based on records from Suitland, that the man sold the trucks on the black-market. The government saved about \$2.5 million.

A major American company claimed that it had thousands of dollars worth of container ship cases stranded in Vietnam at the end of the war in 1975, and sought compensation for them. A list of serial numbers on the containers was presented in evidence. Hatcher's researchers went through 120 feet of records, sheet by sheet, covering a six-month period at the end of the war. It was discovered that three-

fourths of the "lost" containers had not been stranded in Vietnam. Instead, they had been sent away by the company to other ports before the collapse. Saving to the government was about \$500,000.

More money was saved when records showed that a pinball machine company, with extensive operations in post exchanges in Vietnam, had not lost scores of the machines during the collapse, nor were they damaged. Uncle Sam was not responsible for the machines.

A South Vietnamese refugee, who had worked for the U. S. before the fall of Saigon, arrived on the West Coast in the spring of 1975. He needed an American sponsor so that he could stay in this country. His only potential sponsor who was an American was an Army major and his name was "Direction." Records center people went to work to find "Major Direction." They ran their computers, dug out files, chased down leads, and finally came up with the information that a "Major West" had been assigned to units for which the Vietnamese had worked in Southeast Asia. "West?" "Direction?" Could that be what the Vietnamese meant? Yes, that was the man—and he was assigned to Ft. Leavenworth,

KA, only 200 miles from where the refugee was waiting.

Researchers are a hard working group. They include several bright college students from Washington area schools who are learning about research, earning college credits and getting small hourly salaries. They are all quite serious and look hour after hour for bits of information that may be vital to someone, or to the government. There is little levity. But, there are moments.

A huge shipment of records from South Vietnam came in during the summer of 1975. They were packed in beer cartons.

"We thought someone had goofed and sent beer instead of records," Hatcher said. "We thought we had enough beer to last all of us for the rest of our lives. But no luck. No beer. Only records."

An investigation was launched and—here again the records told the story. A GI in Saigon in 1974 had peddled hundreds of regular beige record cases on the blackmarket and pocketed a fat sum. Left without record boxes, the packers reached for the beer cartons.

"We were glad to get the records, of course," Hatcher said. "But, the beer would have been nice too." END

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When Art Went to War

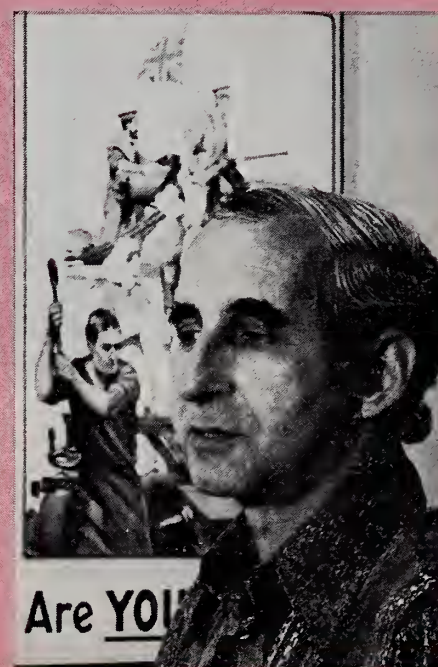
WHEN America entered World War I in 1917, the billboard and poster were enlisted to build home front morale. It was the first time the U. S. Government seriously employed art as "public relations."

George Creel, head of the National Committee on Public Information, called on Charles Dana Gibson of "Gibson Girl" fame to mobilize the artistic talent into a Division of Pictorial Publicity.

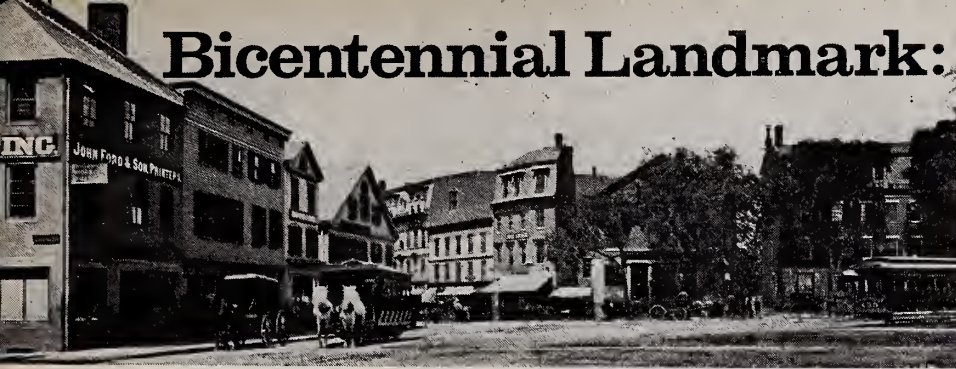
The posters were soon recognized as works of art. But perhaps no individual amassed such a private collection of posters as did J. Lawrence Boggs of Newark, NJ.

Boggs, who died in 1943, donated his collection to the New Jersey Historical Society. The Society, (230 Broadway, Newark,) is now disposing of the collection. A three-day auction and sale will be held Nov. 12-14.

George Dembo, manager of the sale, notes that World War I American artists made much use of symbols such as the Flag, Liberty, Columbia and Uncle Sam. The British, on the other hand, stressed the perpetuation of valiant traditions. One of their posters showed General Kitchener pointing at the reader and saying, "I want you." America copied the idea but changed the general into the figure of Uncle Sam.



Bicentennial Landmark: Cambridge



THE PILGRIMS named it "Newe Towne," then changed it to Cambridge when the Massachusetts General Court voted 400 pounds to found America's first college.

Either name would have been appropriate for Boston's neighbor across the Charles. "Cambridge" conjured up memories of Cambridge University in England (more than 100 early Pilgrim men had attended Oxford or Cambridge). But "Newe Towne" would have reflected the original thoughts spawned there.

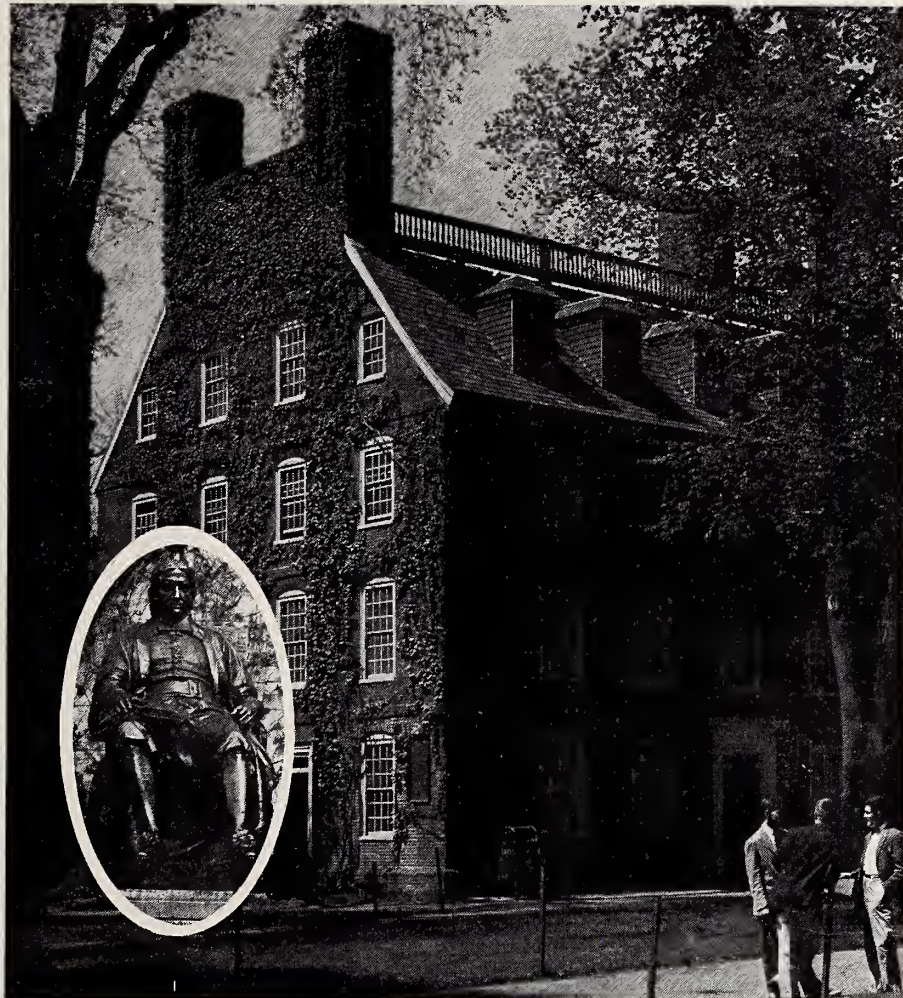
Known today as the home of Harvard University—America's oldest university (1636); Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Radcliffe College and a number of prominent Protestant seminaries, Cambridge has never been far from the arteries of national power and policy.

The first printing press in the United States was assembled in Cambridge in 1639. The Day Psalm Book was printed in 1640.

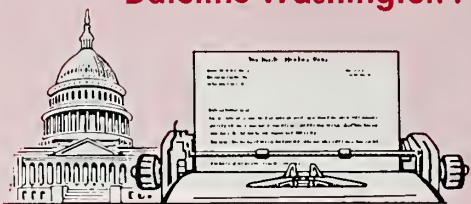
George Washington stood under a Cambridge elm on July 3, 1775, when he took command of the Continental Army. (The tree stood until 1923 at the corner of Garden and Mason streets.) The men who fought at Bunker Hill formed ranks in the streets of Cambridge.

Craigie House, built in 1759, was Washington's headquarters in 1775-76 and was later the home of Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow from 1837 until his death in 1882. The home is in perfect repair, as is Elmwood, birthplace and home of James Russell Lowell, eminent man of letters of his day and editor of the then new "Atlantic Monthly" magazine. Elmwood was built in 1767.

Harvard University is named for John Harvard, a Cambridge (England) man who won his degrees at the English university in 1631 and 1635, then came to Boston as a minister. Harvard was dying of tuberculosis when he heard of the Massachusetts Court's plan for an educational center. He willed the school his library of 400 books and half his wealth—779 pounds, 17 shillings, 2 pence. The Massachusetts Court responded by giving his name to the university—*G. M. Lowe*



Turn-of-century street scene and today's Charles River view mark the changes Cambridge has seen; but ivy-covered halls of Harvard University, named for John Harvard (inset), and the well-preserved home of Longfellow—which was once George Washington's headquarters—emphasize over three centuries of tradition



WILL NEW MISSILE SINK SALT II? PRUNING PRESIDENTIAL POWER. GLOBAL TRADE WAR TRENDS.

Stalled for nearly a year, and with the first agreement due to expire in 1977, the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT II) between the United States and the USSR are confronted with another smarting issue.

For months, the two superpowers have been vainly trying to find a formula which would place mutually agreeable limitations on the Russian's supersonic backfire bomber and on the new American unmanned cruise missile, neither of which is presently included in the long-range launcher count. Now, according to the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the Russians have introduced a new intermediate missile into Communist Europe. Identified as the SS-X-20, this ballistic missile carries multiple warheads which are independently targetable, and are capable of being converted from a medium-range to a long-range reach. The recent deployment of this new missile has been denounced by the Agency as "a massive, unwarranted and unexplained expansion" of Soviet might in Europe.

After five years of bipartisan discussion and investigation, Congress has succeeded in clipping the powers of the White House, a feat accomplished with Presidential support.

The recently enacted National Emergencies Act will eliminate 470 emergency powers of the Presidency, accumulated over the past four decades. These powers will be excised over the next two years.

The emergency powers were first initiated by President Franklin Roosevelt in 1933 to cope with the banking crisis. President Truman followed up with more in 1950 in the Korean War. President Nixon twice issued national emergency edicts, in 1970, for the postal strike, and in 1971, to implement currency restrictions.

The developing countries are pressing to set up producer-run cartels for bauxite, copper, tin, etc., and are eager to duplicate the price uses of OPEC (Oil Producing and Exporting Countries). Failing that, they are demanding agreements with the United States and other industrialized countries to guarantee favorable prices for

their raw materials. Developing countries and even our allies are demanding a bigger share of the American consumption market, even as they try to bar U.S. goods from their own countries.

It is expected that the Executive Office will seek to ban the rivalry among the scattering of agencies dealing with U.S. trade, regroup them under a single department, under a single command and under a tougher trade policy.

PEOPLE & QUOTES

GOVERNMENT HANDOUTS

"You can't get the federal government off your back until you get your hand out of its pocket." Sen. Gary Hart, CO.

liance and the Warsaw Pact would be fatal for both sides." Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, Fed. Rep. of Germany.

BALANCED JUSTICE

"A more traditional and—in my view—a sounder balance is evolving between the rights of accused persons and the rights of a civilized society to have a criminal justice system that is effective as well as fair." Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr.

PIPELINE INTEGRITY
"Not one drop of oil will flow through the Alaska pipeline until it has been thoroughly tested and we are assured of the integrity of the pipeline." Sec'y of the Interior, Thomas S. Kleppe.

ELITIST STANDARD

"As long as intelligence is better than stupidity, knowledge than ignorance, and virtue than vice, no university can be run except on an elitist basis." John R. Silber, president, Boston Univ.

STILL NO FREEDOM
"I have been longing for freedom in the United States. Life in the Soviet Union has not changed from that existing in the days of Czarist Russia where there had been no freedom." Viktor I. Belenko, Soviet Air Force Lt. and defector.

FINDING FUNDS

"Politicians who spend money should also be responsible for raising it." Prime Minister J. Malcolm Fraser, Australia.

ARAB VS. U.S. JOBS
"As impolitic as it may seem, and unpopular as it has to be, we have to recognize that we have to produce American energy and American jobs and stop giving our wealth to the Arabs to create Arab jobs." Frank Zarb, Fed. Energy Administrator.

ENVIRONMENTAL PRICE TAG

"... environmental legislation represents a significant reordering of our national priorities which will only come about at the expense of other important objectives." Dr. Lewis J. Perl, v.p., Nat'l Economic Research Assocs.

TWO ATOMS
"Despite the best efforts and intentions of the people of the United Nations, human society is too diverse, national passions too strong, human aggressiveness too deep-seated, for the peaceful and the warlike atom to stay divorced for long." Oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau.

FATAL CONFRONTATION

"Yet one thing is sure: A warlike confrontation between the North Atlantic Al-

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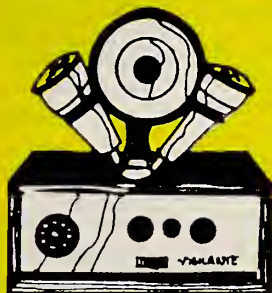
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WASHINGTON
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Opposing Views by Congressmen on The Question . . .

Should Congress Support the

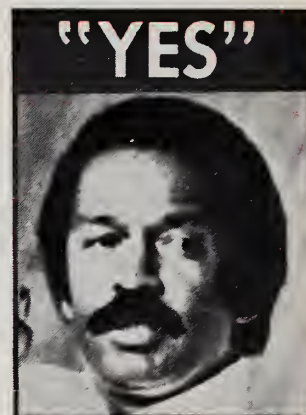
Few pieces of legislation have had or can have as great an impact in advancing economic justice and social well-being as the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill. Nothing is more fundamental to our lives than being able to work, earn a decent livelihood for one's family, and acquire the respect and sense of worth that work confers. All of us are aware of how unemployment has devastated lives and weakened the bonds of family life and community. The despair etched on the faces of the unemployed is especially poignant when it is the face of a young person. These young people suffer from joblessness at a rate at least three times higher than for the labor force as a whole. Millions of Americans have been forced to live on welfare rather than be allowed to contribute to the nation's wealth through work. Crime has soared as joblessness has increased. A means has to be found to iron out our roller coaster economy that booms and busts, inflates and deflates with a regularity that has defied economic analysis and political control.

The Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill is such a means: indeed, it is the only legislative remedy now before Congress. It places the solution of unemployment at the top of the nation's agenda in reducing joblessness to 3 per cent within four years. It directs the President as well as all agencies of government to design policy in a way that optimizes job creation. It creates job-training and employment programs for the hard-core unemployed, never reached before, and for the areas of the country hardest hit. It brings together business, labor and government in partnership to coordinate fiscal policy, private investment and labor productivity. And it enables the nation for the first time to plan ahead for the skills and jobs needed to employ nine million new workers in the next five years and for the additional goods and services

that consumers will require.

Is there any better plan? The critics of Humphrey-Hawkins prefer incentives to the private sector alone. But tax cuts in the past have never succeeded in creating all the jobs needed: dollars used in this way produce five to eight times fewer jobs than an equal number of dollars spent on public service employment. The Humphrey-Hawkins bill has been attacked for its alleged inflationary consequences. But this criticism overlooks the fact that the bill not only sets employment targets, but also establishes price stability goals. Past experience shows that increasing production and decreasing unemployment are far less inflationary than tax cutting.

There is simply no excuse any longer for the wealthiest, most technologically advanced society in all of history to condemn so many citizens year after year to lives devoid of opportunity, purpose and productiveness.

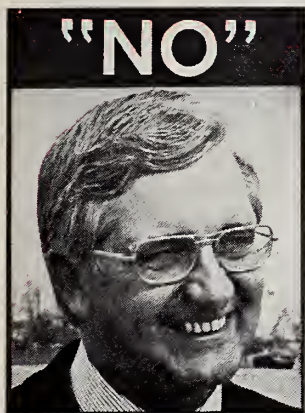


Rep. John J. Conyers, Jr.
(D-MI)

John Conyers

If you wish to let your Congressman or one of your Senators know how you feel on this

Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill?



Rep. Marvin L. Esch
(R-MI)

The fundamental question in the debate on the Humphrey-Hawkins bill is the degree to which we want the government involved in all of our nation's economic decisions. H.R. 50 is a blueprint for central economic planning—the involvement of the government in every aspect of economic life. Although its sponsors try to shy away from the

centralized aspects of their bill, they admit in the Committee report that “the Act does require the President to submit proposals . . . which, if enacted, may have that effect.”

H.R. 50 centers enormous powers in the Presidency, including the requirement that he must establish detailed numerical goals for employment, production and purchasing power. It requires the President to propose “priority policies and programs” which “shall initially include” the areas of energy, transportation, food, small business, environmental improvement, the quality and quantity of health care, education and training, child care and other human services, housing and “other priority policies.” It also gives the President the power to interfere with the policies of the Federal Reserve if he doesn't like them. In an era when the power of the Presidency has been of great concern, it makes one shudder to think what an unprincipled or power-hungry President could do with these powers.

Even the most liberal of economists, including John Kenneth Galbraith and Alice Rivlin, have testified that H.R. 50 would be highly inflationary

and that it would cause an abnormally tight labor market. Through its prevailing wage rate public employment section, it would have the effect of the government bidding against private enterprise for employees and would shift major employment segments to the non-productive federal government—at the expense of all the taxpayers.

There is no question about the fact that unemployment is a serious problem which must be addressed, but I believe that it must be addressed through the free enterprise system and that jobs must be created in the productive sector of the economy. Government is already too big and too all-pervasive and it already takes too large a share of taxpayers' dollars.

I will soon introduce a jobs bill which proposes a series of tax cuts for individuals and incentives for investment in private enterprise, so that our nation's businesses can build new factories, open new small businesses and create hundreds of thousands of new productive and meaningful jobs.

Unemployment is a problem that must be solved—but not through the increased government involvement, enormous concentration of powers and centralized planning of H.R. 50.

Marvin Esch



I've read in The American Legion Magazine (Nov.) the arguments in PRO & CON: “Should Congress Support the Humphrey-Hawkins Full Employment Bill?”

IN MY OPINION THE ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION IS:

YES ☐ NO ☐

SIGNED _____

ADDRESS _____

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issue, fill out the “ballot” and mail it to him. ➔

The Purple Heart...For Military Merit...

The Purple Heart, America's most widely awarded combat medal, was the first American military decoration; yet, 150 years passed after George Washington created it in 1782 before it became general issue.

The Purple Heart appeared as the Revolution ended. In 1782, the year after Cornwallis' surrender at Yorktown, Washington had his headquarters at Newburgh, NY, from where he watched the British who still occupied New York City. With the hardships of Valley Forge five years behind him, and with Redcoats and Continentals both waiting for the peace treaty, the General had time to think about lesser matters—such as tokens for distinguished service.

The result was the first of a long line of general orders awarding military medals to generations of Americans:

"The General, ever desirous to cherish a virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings over the left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry, but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential services in any way shall meet with the award.

"The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all—this order is also to have retrospect to the earliest stages of the war, and to be considered as a permanent one."

This desire was never carried out. The only three known awards went to Sgt. Daniel Brown, Fifth Connecticut; Sgt. Elijah Churchill, Second Continental Light Dragoons (a Connecticut unit), and Sgt. Daniel Bissel, Second Connecticut. Just as Congress did not get around to granting pensions to Revolutionary veterans until almost 50 years after Independence, the most deserving had to settle for personal satisfaction and their depreciated Continental currency when the Army was disbanded in 1783.

In 1847, Congress authorized a Certificate of Merit for any private who performed distinguished service. Seven years later, the award was broadened to include non-coms. In 1905 a medal was voted to accompany the certificate. It was discontinued in 1918.

During the Civil War the Medal of Honor was the sole American federal decoration. At the end of World War I in 1918, the only medals for heroism or outstanding service were the Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service and Navy Crosses, and the Army and Navy Distinguished Service medals. This is why the French Croix de Guerre was so widely awarded to Americans in France in World War I. America had no comparable decoration for heroism or accomplishment. The Silver Star was not created until 1932.

The Purple Heart was specifically intended for enlisted men. Its materials were readily available. It could be awarded immediately in a form recognizable to anyone.

"Before this favor can be conferred on any man," Washington continued, "the particular fact, or facts, on which it is to be grounded, must be set forth to the Commander-in-Chief accompanied with certificates from



Center of Military History painting by H. Charles McBarron depicts Washington awarding the first Purple Heart decorations at his Newburgh, N.Y. headquarters

the commanding officers of the regiment and brigade to which the candidate for reward belonged, or other incontestable proofs. . . ."

Along with having their names "enrolled in the book of merit which will be kept at the orderly office," the recipients would be "suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do." This foreshadowed the unofficial custom of officers giving the first salute to enlisted men wearing the Medal of Honor.

In 1932, the Bicentennial of George Washington's birth, our first decoration was revived in a true medal. The modern version has a portrait of Washington, in white, on a purple heart-shaped background, within a gold frame. Above the portrait is a shield bearing Washington's family coat of arms, between green branches. The back of the medal carries his words "FOR MILITARY MERIT." The clasp holds a ribbon of purple with white stripes.

Today, the Purple Heart is associated with wounds. When first revived, it could also be given to veterans of the American Expeditionary Force of World War I who had been cited for meritorious service. After 1932, it was restricted to those killed or wounded in action against an armed enemy in a recognized campaign.

Originally, the Purple Heart was strictly an Army medal, replacing the World War I wound chevrons that were worn on the right sleeve. It wasn't until late 1942 that Congress made it apply to the Navy, Marines, and Coast Guard officer and enlisted man alike. During World War II, recipients ranged from seamen second class and buck privates killed at Pearl Harbor, to Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner, killed on Okinawa.

By the end of the Vietnam War, the number of Purple Hearts awarded neared 1.25 million. (Next of kin received the medal for those killed in action.)—Ray Young

Was This Black Girl Our First Woman Vet?

The first woman to serve in the Revolutionary Army was probably a black—Deborah Sampson Gannett. She was certainly the first black woman to receive a military pension from the new U.S. government and one of the first Americans to qualify for this income. She enlisted as a man and for over a year, the farm girl from Plympton, MA, was known as Robert Shurtliff of the Fourth Massachusetts Light Infantry.

Records show she was wounded three times but treated herself each time to avoid being recognized as a woman.

Her true sex was not discovered until she was stricken with pneumonia in 1783 and required medical care. The doctor who treated her kept the secret until she fully recovered. She then received an honorable discharge.

Apparently, Deborah was not paid regular compensation for her military duties. However, the record of her service and the state's recognition is inscribed in this official report of the General Court of Massachusetts dated Jan. 20, 1792:

"WHEREAS, it appears to this Court that the said DEBORAH GANNETT enlisted, under the name



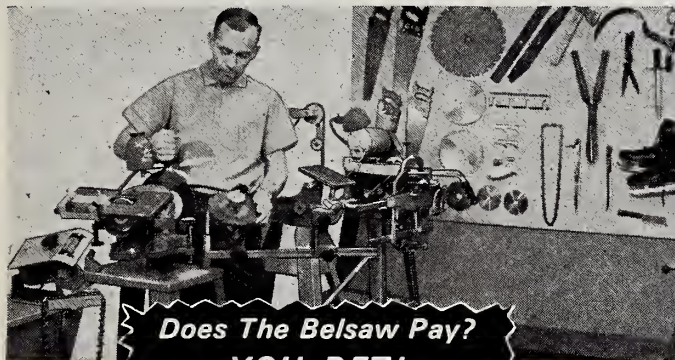
of Robert Shurtliff, in Capt. Webb's company, in the 4th Massachusetts Regiment, on May 20th, 1782, and

"WHEREAS, it further appears that the said Deborah exhibited an extraordinary instance of female heroism, by discharging the duties of a faithful, gallant soldier, and at the same time preserving the virtue and chastity of her sex unsuspected and unblemished, and was discharged from the service with a fair and honorable character; therefore,

"Resolved, that the Treasurer of this Commonwealth be, and he hereby is, directed to issue his note to the said Deborah for the sum of thirty-four pounds, bearing interest from Oct. 23, 1783."

After her Army service, Deborah married Benjamin Gannett, of Sharon, MA. They had three children and she died April 29, 1827 at 67.

In 1805, the Federal Pension Office allowed her a pension of \$4 a month. In 1816 it was increased to \$6.40 and in 1818 she was given a lifetime pension of \$8 a month. In 1838, by a special act of Congress, her heirs received \$466.66.



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Rex Stage Tampa, Florida 33614

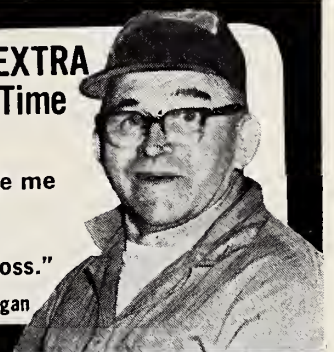
■ "I had dreamed of retiring for years, but was afraid to quit my salaried job. I had never used this type of equipment, but the SHARP-ALL was real easy to learn. I sharpened 30 blades my first week — without advertising at all. Now, for the first time in my life, I can say that I am content."

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Voice control technique turns pages for paralyzed patient. Another demonstration shows how voice controls arm movement.

Disabled Find Help In Space

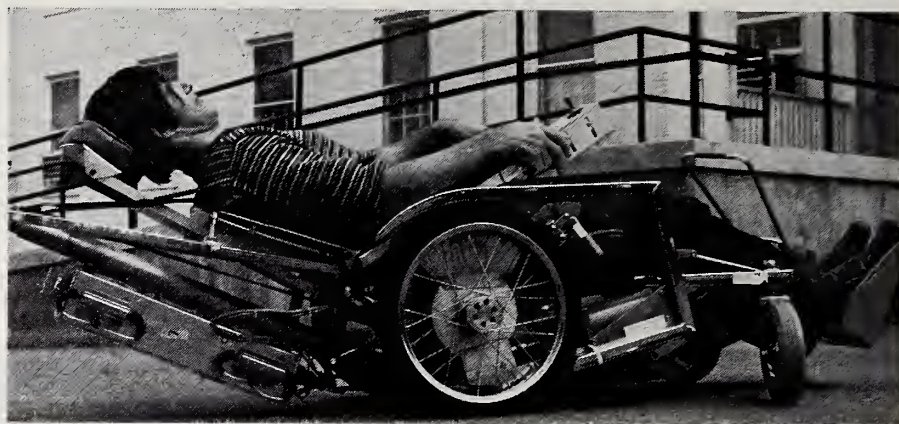
Space scientists who have dazzled the nation with their ability to devise tools and techniques that conquer time and distance are now turning those talents to the problems of the handicapped—particularly the disabled veteran.

At the urging of Chairman Olin Teague of the House Committee on Science and Technology, federal agencies have undertaken a two-pronged research effort. One is aimed at applying space-age sophistication to the individual problems of handicapped persons. The other seeks a systems approach to new construction that will result in buildings more accessible and more comfortable to the handicapped.

Scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and major architectural and building firms are involved in the research. Both projects have been coordinated with the Veterans Administration, particularly the VA's Prosthetic Center at Castle Point, NY.

"In a nation whose basic precept is freedom of opportunity," Teague said, "it is not a luxury but a necessity for every citizen to be free of undue constraints to pursue a productive life."

Teague said the project will dispel the idea that space programs have no down-to-earth benefits. Examples



Patient demonstrates flexibility of voice control wheelchair at Castle Point, NY, Veterans Administration Hospital, where prosthetics research is pursued

abound he said, but some of the most versatile include an advance teleoperator system with a series of small motors, controls and coordinating mechanisms set in motion by a tongue control. This system, when used as a robot arm, operates so smoothly that someone paralyzed from the neck down can perform such dexterous and precise tasks as writing a letter or applying lipstick.

Teleoperator systems were originally developed by NASA to control radioactive materials used in space flights. NASA has used this same technology to collect and sample soil on the Viking missions to Mars.

A NASA sight-switch has been adapted to operate a standard mechanical page turner at a glance. This enables a totally paralyzed patient to read and turn pages without the constant assistance of a nurse. By adding basic logic components, the sight-switch can control other simple activities such as working the controls on a television set.

Unusual composite materials developed for spacecraft, aircraft and rocket motor applications are being

used to replace heavy metal components for leg braces. These new materials can be made cheaply and have reduced the brace weight by more than 50 per cent.

The architect's program also promises new concepts. To date, the redesign of buildings to help the handicapped has been limited to architectural modifications of benefit to people who are either blind or confined to a wheelchair. Little has been done to help those with audio or sensory impairments.

Architects are being urged to incorporate the emerging concept of "barrier-free design," the idea that a handicap is not so much caused by a person's disability as it is by a failure in the environment to provide for the disability.

Within a structure it must be recognized that the elevator buttons, service counters, directory listings and maps must all be at a level that is accessible to a handicapped person.

"It all involves planning—the ability to anticipate problems," says Teague. "And who has done a better job in this area than our space scientists?"

This Town Doesn't Forget

By ROSEMARY L. GINN
U. S. Ambassador to Luxembourg

I WANT American Legionnaires to know about a place where GIs are remembered.

Citizens of Ettelbruck, along with most Luxembourgers, cherish the memory of U.S. forces who liberated them from oppression during the First and Second World Wars. Many were conscripted in German forces or spent long months in Nazi prisons.



Amb. Ginn

Each year Ettelbruck holds a Remembrance Day in honor of Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., and the soldiers of his Third Army. The ambassador of the United States and high-ranking U. S. Military officers stationed in Europe traditionally participate in these ceremonies. This year there was the added acknowledgement of the U. S. Bicentennial.

American troops of the 39th Infantry Battalion came from West Germany to join in the festivities. Belgian troops also participated.

The Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg were guests of honor at the day-long ceremonies that included speeches by U.S. and Luxembourg officials, a parade, military demonstrations, a flyover by U. S. warplanes from Spandagham Air Force Base in Germany, ceremonies at the Patton Monument where the duke and other dignitaries laid wreaths and finally a friendship party and fireworks display at which the American and Belgian troops and visitors mingled with the Luxembourgers.

Americans everywhere should know that our sacrifices in war are not forgotten. Remembrance Day in Luxembourg is a continuing gratitude. We are held in the people's hearts in this peaceful countryside that was once swept by the din and horror of war.

In the U. S. Military Cemetery at Hamm, a suburb of Luxembourg, thousands of visitors come each year to pay homage to Americans who died for their freedom.

Editor's Note: Remembrance Day in Luxembourg is celebrated each year on the last Sunday in June.



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NOVEMBER, 1976

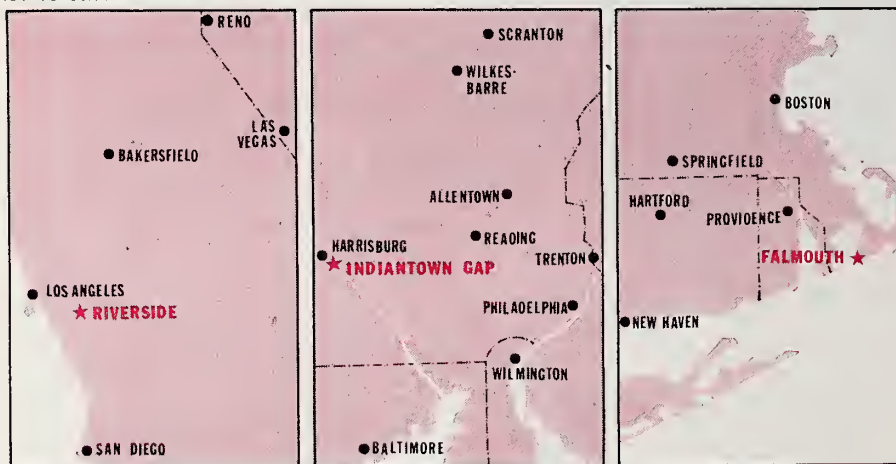
THREE OF FIVE NEW NATIONAL CEMETERIES

DEDICATED: New national cemeteries at Indiantown Gap, PA, and Falmouth, MA, were dedicated Oct. 30 and Oct. 31, respectively, by the Veterans Administration...On June 27, a new national cemetery was dedicated near March Air Force Base, CA...Two others, one near Quantico, VA, the other near Calverton, NY, will be dedicated later...The five new sites were selected on the basis of veteran population density and present gravesite availability...Located about 60 miles from Los Angeles, the site at Riverside, CA, consists of 740 acres, will provide 390,000 gravesites with first interments due in June 1978...The Indiantown Gap site, located east of Harrisburg, consists of 677 acres, 360,000 gravesites, with interments to begin in February 1979...The Falmouth site is located near Otis Air Force Base, about 50 miles southeast of Boston...It consists of 749 acres, will provide about 360,000 gravesites, with interments expected in August

year-long drive for American Cancer Society funds...Top contributor was New York with \$141,248, while Ohio was next with \$74,420...Other contributors were New Jersey (\$74,000); Florida (\$46,879); Indiana (\$42,133); California (\$36,288); Pennsylvania (\$34,654); Georgia (\$31,790); and Missouri (\$30,000).

VA TO PROVIDE SWINE FLU SHOTS: When available, Veterans Administration says it will provide flu vaccines to patients and employees under PL 94-380...Two kinds will be given—monovalent for swine flu only, which goes to most patients; and bivalent for both swine and Victoria flu strains, which goes to those over age 65, those with certain chronic health problems including heart, lung and kidney diseases and those with diabetes and spinal cord injuries...VA will give shots to inpatients and those scheduled for appointments during time shots are being distributed.

NOT TO SCALE



1978...The Quantico site is near the Marine Corps Base located about 35 miles south of Washington...It consists of 749 acres, providing 300,000 gravesites...Largest site is located about 60 miles from downtown Manhattan at Calverton, near a Naval installation on Long Island...Consisting of about 902 acres, it will offset closing the Long Island National Cemetery expected in January 1978...The five cemeteries will provide more than 1,800,000 more gravesites when fully developed...Actuarial forecasts say there will be 13.2 million veteran deaths in the next 24 years...With 29.5 million veterans, plus wives, husbands, dependent children and widows, there are approximately 86 million persons eligible for burial in national cemeteries.

32 LEGION DEPARTMENTS EXCEEDED CANCER FUND QUOTAS: 32 of the 58 Legion departments exceeded quotas set for the American Legion's

HALL NAMED VETERANS' AFFAIRS ASSISTANT AT LABOR DEPARTMENT

Ralph E. Hall named special assistant for veterans' affairs to Michael H. Moskow, Under Secretary of Labor...Hall, a former executive director and national commander of AMVETS, will continue as director of the Department's Veterans Employment Service and as vice chairman of the Secretary of Labor's Committee on Veterans Affairs...Hall will coordinate programs for veterans' employment and training opportunities.

FLORIDA LEGIONNAIRE ASKS HELP IN SEARCH FOR DAUGHTER

July 22, more than three months ago, Deedee Scofield, 12, left her mother at an Ocala, FL, driver's testing center, walked across the road to a shopping center and



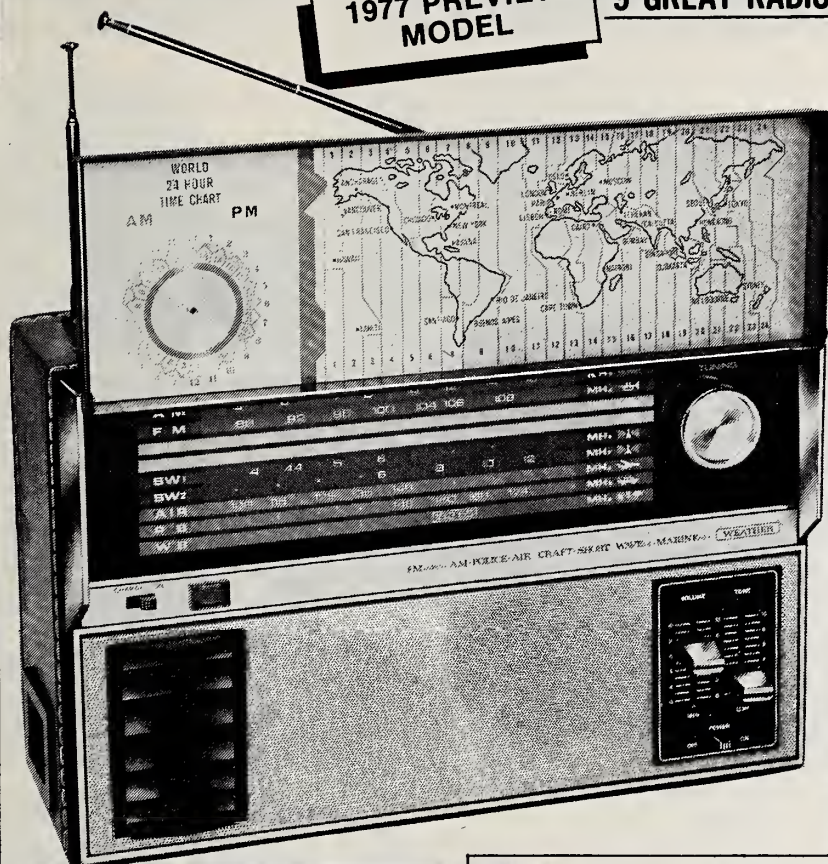
Deedee

disappeared. . . . Deedee's dad, Navy veteran Joseph V. Scofield, a member of Legion Post 614, Hilliard, OH, has asked if we can help. . . . Here is a picture of Deedee, a happy little girl who moved to Citra, FL, with her parents and four brothers and sisters last October from Columbus, OH. . . . Deedee weighs 100 pounds, is 4 feet-11; has long brown hair and blue eyes. . . . If you have seen her call 904-629-8555; 904-236-4633 or 904-236-3873. . . . There's a \$2,000 reward. . . . Forget that . . . She's a Legionnaire's daughter.

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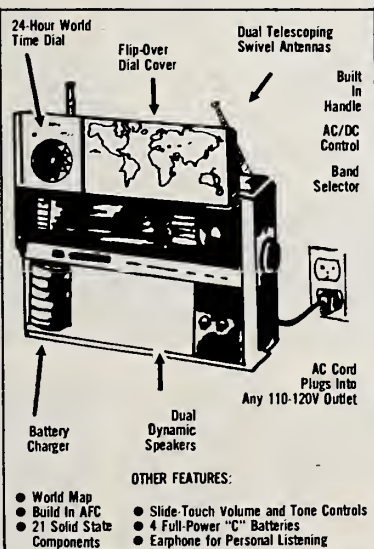
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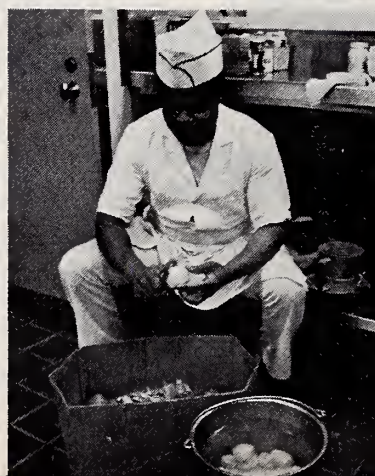
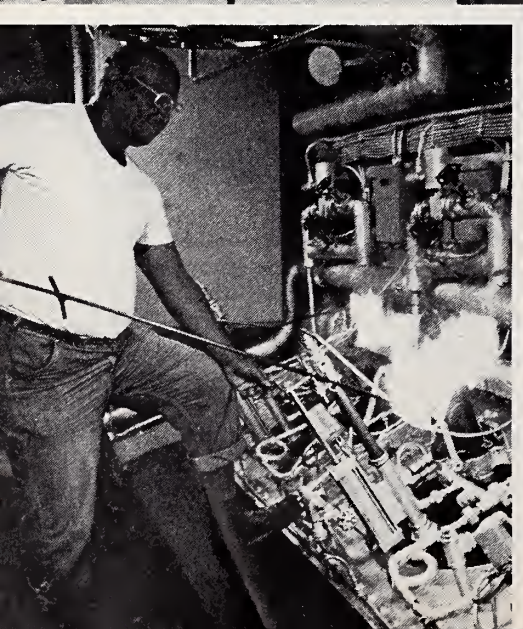
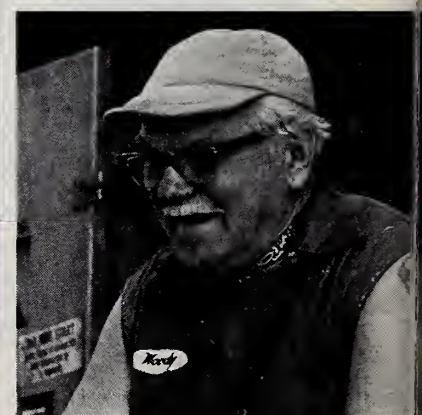
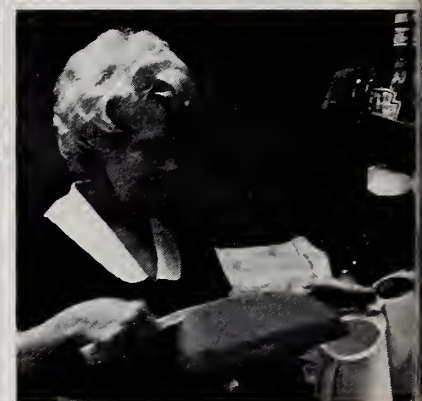
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Our Ship Keeps Her Promise

IT WAS ONE of those sun-kissed days at sea. The water so ink blue that it threatened to stain anything it touched, yet erupting into soapy lather under the ship's bow. It was pleasantly warm. A pair of porpoises frolicked off the port side. The stuff dreams are made of.

But, cut! Hold it right there! In the work-a-day world of ocean commerce such dreams can evaporate as quickly as the salt spray from an ocean wave.

Radio Officer DeForest O. Romain barked "WHISKEY, ZULU, JULIET, CHARLIE . . . WHISKEY, ZULU, JULIET, CHARLIE" into his high frequency single-sideband radio-telephone.

"This is the SS *AMERICAN LEGION*, WOM, WOM, Miami, over." Again he repeated the ship's WZJC call letters. Finally, a Miami, FL, woman operator completed the phone call to the New York City home office of the United States Lines. This company, which has bridged 103 years from sailing vessels to containerships, is the owner of the revolutionary SS *AMERICAN LEGION*, a fast, highly automated flagship that helps America lead in door-to-door (intermodal) ocean transportation.

When the call was made, the 700-foot vessel was steaming effortlessly between Savannah, GA, and Staten Island, her home port, on the last leg of a Far Eastern express service run covering 64 days and 25,500 miles (round-trip). She had called at U. S. East and West coast ports plus Honolulu, Guam, Hong Kong, Kobe, Yokohama, Cristobal and Balboa during Panama Canal transits.

The radio operator was visibly relieved to complete that call to New York. It had been ordered by an impressive figure over 6 feet tall, weighing 190 pounds and heavily tanned who had little patience with delay. He was the *AMERICAN LEGION*'s skipper—Leroy J. Alexanderson, Commodore of United States Lines' 39-ship fleet for the last

decade. A "bon vivant" to presidents, kings and queens, dukes and duchesses when he skippered the famous SS *UNITED STATES*, he has been "Ajax" to hardy crewmen during nearly a half a century on the seven seas.

Regarded as the No. 1 mariner in the United States Lines' fleet, Alexanderson represents the new breed of man and ship in today's merchant marine. No longer is the cargo ship a ponderous roly-poly beast of burden; she is sleek, fast and geared to a clock-like schedule.

SS *AMERICAN LEGION* epitomizes this "new look." She is an intermodal system combining ships and terminals, containers and chassis, computers and communications, people and procedures—all coordinated in a 15,000-mile "sea bridge" to and



Mrs. Gwen Galbraith christens *AMERICAN LEGION* at 1968 launching as the Nat'l Cmdr. William Galbraith looks on

from Europe, the East and West coasts, Hawaii, Guam and the Far East.

She is a symbol of the Legion in more than name.

Virtually every year, Legionnaires have voted in Convention "to rebuild the U. S.-flag shipping fleet to a position second to none in the world." After years of government apathy and neglect, the U. S.-flag merchant fleet has begun to reestablish itself. The SS *AMERICAN LEGION* as flagship of the United States Lines' fleet is showing the way. She was United States Lines' pioneer in door-to-door container operations that

have catapulted the United States into a record world trade lead valued at over \$200 billion a year. The country now has the largest intermodal merchant fleet afloat with more than 170 container, roll-on/roll-off and barge carrying vessels.

The *AMERICAN LEGION* has helped write that record in virtually every major port. Since she entered service in 1968—one of eight Lancer class vessels constructed in a \$100 million building program—the world market place has been her home.

A plaque in Commodore Alexanderson's quarters reads: "SS *AMERICAN LEGION*—May God Bless This Ship and Crew as They Carry the Flag of the United States to Greater Maritime Records and Accomplishments—Presented February 27, 1968, William E. Galbraith, National Commander, American Legion, in Commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Founding of the American Legion."

The *AMERICAN LEGION* was about to terminate her 64th voyage when I climbed aboard in Savannah for the quick 48-hour run to New York. Since 1968, she had steamed 1,221,288 miles, a distance encircling the earth about 31 times, nearly one million miles of that in the Far Eastern trade. She had carried roughly 155,000 loaded containers representing a cargo capacity of over 181 million cubic feet. Her total cargo would fill 31,000 box cars that would stretch from Philadelphia to Boston.

Twenty- and 40-foot containers weighing between 12 and 16 tons were loaded and unloaded at Savannah's Garden City Terminal by multi-million dollar shoreside gantry cranes in 90-second intervals. Off-loaded containers were quickly deposited atop wheeled trailer chassis and the trucks rolled toward their inland destinations without delay. A sophisticated computer control system at United States Lines' New York headquarters keeps tab on every ship and container in the company's worldwide system.

More than 1,200 of these diversified loaded containers were stored above and below the *AMERICAN LEGION*'s decks, with boxes stacked three high forward of the bridge and four high aft, as she started her homeward journey from Savannah. (Just one day in port—that's all the *AMERICAN LEGION* averages, as

(Continued on page 40)

◀ Clockwise from upper left: Container ship *American Legion* takes on cargo at Savannah; fully loaded ship heads through channel toward Atlantic and voyage to the Far East; First Mate Bob Corcoran is 35-year veteran of merchant marine; Thelma Kase is the only woman member of the crew; another veteran is Joseph L. Westberry; Legion's engine room controls reflect the highly automated equipment; but automation doesn't change potato-peeling chore for Second Cook Mariano Moreira; Deck Engine Mechanic Raymond L. Bradford demonstrates stoker's boiler torch that is used only if electric ignition fails; and the man in charge, Capt. Leroy J. Alexanderson, heads for his bridge

NOVEMBER, 1976

New Laws Increase Veterans' Benefits

An 8 per cent across-the-board hike in service-connected disability benefits effective Oct. 1, 1976, and a 7 per cent increase in non-service-connected disability pensions effective Jan. 1, 1977, were approved by the 94th Congress and signed by President Ford before adjournment. The benefits increase applies to spouses and children also. Eligible pensioners who are 78 years of age or older get an additional 25 per cent increase.

Also approved was S. 969, the "Veterans Education and Employment Assistance Act of 1976." It provides an 8 per cent increase in educational and training assistance allowances for veterans. It also terminates GI Bill eligibility for all service personnel entering service after Dec. 31, 1976. In its place, it establishes a plan whereby service personnel contribute up to \$75 per month for future education, and the Veterans Administration adds \$2 for every \$1 contributed. Limits on use of the maximum of 45 months of educational entitlement are eliminated.

In other actions affecting American Legion mandates:

Boys State and Girls State programs were exempted from sex discrimination provisions of Title IX of the Civil Rights Act, the same as Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and similar organizations. Under such provisions, groups that discriminate be-

tween sexes are denied federal educational subsidies.

Legion's poppy program by disabled veterans in hospitals was exempted from provisions of federal minimum wage laws. If not exempted, the poppy program faced extinction since increased pay to veteran volunteers would have eliminated small profits which are turned back into veterans rehabilitation services and similar causes. This action was done administratively after months of infighting and negotiation by the Legion.

Placement of the Legion's Freedom Bell on U.S. Park Service land in Washington, D.C. area was approved. The exact site will be negotiated. The Bell has been a feature of the Bicentennial Freedom Train.

Continued funds for paying salaries of commissary employees and other subsidies were approved for at least another year. Elimination of subsidies would increase store prices reducing their benefits, commissary officials claimed.

President Ford also approved an average 4.83 per cent pay raise effective Oct. 1, 1976, for most military personnel and federal white-collar workers. Estimated cost would be \$2.5 billion. Blue-collar, or wage board employees and postal employees are not covered by the raise. Blue-collar workers' sal-

aries are adjusted locally while postal salaries are negotiated directly with U.S. Postal Service. Military and federal retirees are due for cost-of-living raise in excess of 5 per cent in March, 1977.

Besides the 8 per cent increase in benefits for service-connected disabled veterans, the bill, H.R. 14299, increases clothing allowance from \$175 to \$190; and increases the VA mortgage insurance for disabled veterans eligible for adapted housing from \$30,000 to \$40,000. Estimated cost of these increases is \$400 million for the first year.

Under the pension bill, H.R. 14298, the 8 per cent interim rate adjustment made effective last January was made permanent. The new 7 per cent hike will cost taxpayers about \$432 million.

Special Committee Named To Study Legion Deaths

A special committee to study deaths of 29 persons who were connected with the Department of Pennsylvania's annual convention in Philadelphia, PA, was named by Legion National Commander William J. Rogers.

The five-member committee and one consultant will recommend precautionary measures to be taken at future large Legion gatherings. It will also look for ways to assist families of those Legionnaires and Auxiliary members who died in the tragedy. The committee's first meeting was during the fall National Executive Committee meeting in Indianapolis.

Meanwhile, the Philadelphia County Council of the Legion shifted its regular meeting to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, headquarters for the state convention, to show its faith in the hotel, which suffered a serious drop in business because of the publicity surrounding the deaths. Attending were Pennsylvania Department officials.

Committee members are: C. D. (Deke) DeLoach, former FBI deputy director and now vice president of corporate affairs, PepsiCo, Inc.; L. Eldon James, past National Legion commander and an attorney at law; Thomas B. Coll, National Legion Vice Commander and special agent—supervisor, FBI; Dr. Kenneth J. S. DeSimone, a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons; and Al Viggiano, former service officer for Department of Pennsylvania. Ed Hoak, department adjutant of Pennsylvania, was asked to serve as consultant.

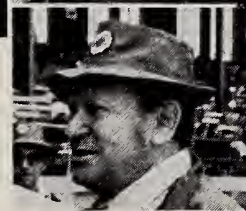
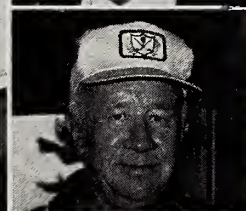
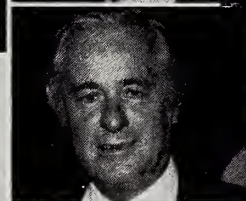
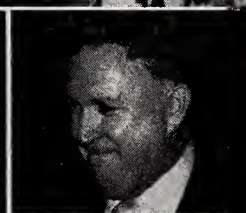
Legion Honors Mexican Veteran Official



Department of Mexico's National Executive Committeeman Gordon A. Ballantyne pins The American Legion International Amity Award on Alfonso Cuellar Ponce de Leon, president of the Association of Mexican War Veterans, at ceremonies during reception at residence of U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Joseph John Jova (second from left), as Past National Legion Vice Commander Harry Wright watches.



PHOTOS BY RALPH BURRIS



Jubilant Post 123, Santa Monica, CA team (top left) holds banner proclaiming it 1976 American Legion National Baseball Champion after victory over Post 39, Des Plaines, IL in title game at Manchester, NH. First row: left—Nat Comdr William J. Rogers accepts photo from Hall of Fame outfielder Ted Williams, who was banquet guest speaker; right—Hall of Fame pitcher Bob Feller poses with Santa Monica manager Al Montanari. Second row: left—Rich Schroeder, who pitched no-hitter and winning game for Santa Monica; right—New Hampshire Gov. Meldrim Thomson presents \$10,000 check for Legion baseball to Manchester Post 79 Comdr Roger Lancot. Lower left, head umpire Sonny Noel (ME) chats with Comdr Rogers and James F. O'Neil, publisher of American Legion Magazine and pioneer in Legion baseball. Inset photos, top to bottom; Lou Brissie, former Philadelphia Athletics star

pitcher and former director of Legion baseball; Curt Gowdy, well-known TV sports announcer and banquet MC; Al H. Steinmetz, distinguished guest chairman for 1975 Legion World Series; and Sid Schwartz, director of Legion baseball, Maine. Top right: Santa Monica pitcher Schroeder accepts winners trophy from Schwartz. Bottom right: Des Plaines catcher Don Stebbins accepts runner-up trophy

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To repeat—this is *concentrated* on-the-spot relief obtained by providing maximum contact with areas of pain. Shortly after you start wearing Joint-Ease, you should actually feel a lessening of aches and discomfort. The heat generated by Joint-Ease should begin to soothe the distressed elbow, ankle, knee or wrist—significantly relieving much of the strain, stiffness and misery.

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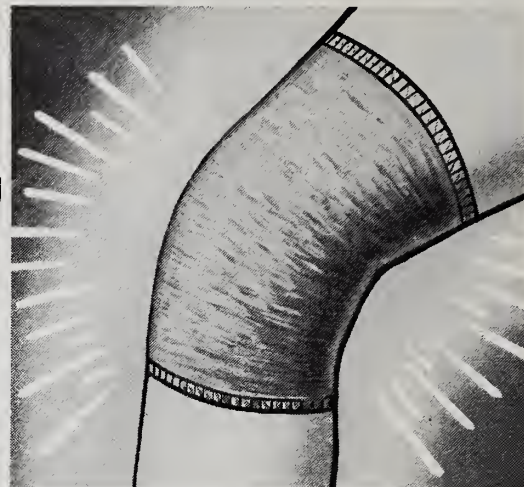
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NEWS

Posts Spend Millions For Youth, Children

A national survey compiled from reports of 6,667 American Legion posts representing 42% of the worldwide total of more than 16,000 posts, showed that in 1975-76, they spent \$5,253,511 on Americanism programs such as boys state, baseball, scouting, school awards and oratorical contests. They also contributed \$3,427,558 to children and youth programs and another \$2,163,469 to various charity and welfare programs.

The statistical survey was taken from Consolidated Post Report Forms filed with National Headquarters for the period ending in July, 1976. The 6,667 posts that reported had total membership of 1,471,612 and during the period initiated 51,228 new members. These posts had total assets of \$329,709,838 and 3,307 of the post homes were debt free.

Under rehabilitation, the posts handled 348,646 cases giving cash aid of \$502,907 to veterans.

Other statistics revealed included:

Some 4,876 posts that participated in Boys State sponsored 15,192 boys at cost of \$1,020,451.

Posts sponsored 1,359 scout units, had 41,411 scouts in Legion-sponsored units and 6,864 Legionnaires in scouting. These programs cost \$303,791.

Some 3,250 posts granted 20,011 school awards at cost of \$219,275.

Some 6,534 youths competed in oratorical contests sponsored by 1,024 posts at cost of \$73,616.

Posts awarded scholarships valued at \$388,140.

Under community services, 4,319 posts gave 2,135,735 hours to various projects.

Through veteran training programs, 993 posts helped 31,123 veterans.

Posts sponsored 1,948 baseball teams, and 2,171 other athletic teams at cost of \$3,636,379.

Posts reported contributions as follows: Mental health (\$70,578); United Fund (\$211,878); Retarded (\$31,319); Red Cross (\$1,130,905); Cancer (\$181,406); American Legion Child Welfare (\$74,207); Crippled Children (\$341,284); and others (\$122,692).

For children and youth programs, posts gave \$663,793 in cash aid; \$741,498 in goods; spent \$1,036,627 on parties, gifts and other extras; and provided \$985,640 to childrens' benefits. Some 187,762 children were given direct aid, while 687,862 others benefitted in other ways.

Under national security, reporting posts gave 90,185 pints of blood and presented 4,369 ROTC medals.



National Vice Commander Thomas B. Coll presents Army's Russell H. Garber with American Flag which flew over U.S. Capitol during Armed Forces Chess Tournament. Garber was individual champion.

Army Experts Take Team, Individual Chess Honors

Army chess experts took team and individual honors in the 1976 Bicentennial Armed Forces Chess Tournament at The American Legion Washington Headquarters. The Legion sponsors the annual event with the American Chess Foundation.

E4 Russell H. Garber, stationed with the Army in Europe, defeated SSgt Don C. Sutherland, of Columbus Air Force Base, MS, for individual honors. Navy's ETR3 Charles Lawton, of USS Huntley, Charleston, SC, finished third.

Army's six-man team defeated the Sea Services, scoring 41½ points to 37 in 12 rounds of competition. It was the Army's first win since 1968. The Sea Service team consisted of four from the Navy, and one each from the Coast Guard and Marine Corps. Air Force, the defending champion, finished third with 29½ points.

Besides Garber, the Army team consisted of: SP4 Charles W. Johnson, Fort Carson, CO; E4 Alan G. Piper, USAREUR Germany; SP4 Richard W. Frye, Fort Ord, CA; SP4 David W. Pendergast, USAREUR Germany; and Sgt Charles R. Gelinis, USAREUR Italy.

Tournament Director was Chaplain L. Randall Rogers, retired Navy commander.

Philippine Medal Available

American service personnel and veterans who served in The Philippines during World War II who feel they are eligible for that government's Liberation Medal and Ribbon should contact: Office of Armed Forces Affairs, Embassy of The Philippines, 1617 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Wash., DC 20036. Inquiries should be accompanied by citation or other evidence issued by The Philippine Government for participation in the liberation of the island republic.

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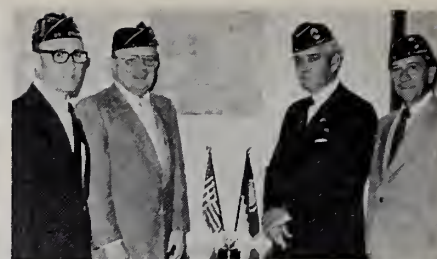
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POSTS IN ACTION



The Legion's South Dakota Department and Auxiliary celebrated Bicentennial Year with a week-long river boat parade from North Sioux City, IA to Mobridge, S.D. to commemorate the famous Lewis and Clark expedition up the Missouri River. Joining the project were some 4,000 Legionnaires and Auxiliary members from departments of Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and North Dakota. Legion posts along the route served as hosts arranging meals, dances and other programs. Shown in photo from left are unidentified member of Hill City Fife & Drum Corps; Woodrow Sinkular as Clark; Jack Gerken as Lewis; and Wanda Sletten as Sakajawea



Standing in front of plaque dedicating new headquarters for Post 33, Steubenville, OH, are from left: Thomas C. Jones, past post commander; Mayor William Crabbe; John Pender, post commander; and Joseph G. Pinciario, post finance officer.



As a Bicentennial Year project, the Legion's Department of Wisconsin and its Auxiliary administered a fund-raising campaign which resulted in construction of decorative water fountain for the Wisconsin Veterans Home, King, WI. Pearl Behrend, National Auxiliary legislative chairman, and Keith Kreul, Wisconsin National Executive Committeeman, served as co-chairmen for project which included Legion and Auxiliary member donations of 76 cents each. Other veterans and civic groups also participated.



Two charter members, brothers Harold and Laurence Saur, stand beneath ox yoke hanging above sign for Post 123, Kent City, MI. Harold, on right, says Bicentennial theme over yoke indicates all veterans should "pull together" for their common good.



Seven members of Post 161, King, WI, were honored recently for at least 57 consecutive years of membership in The American Legion. Two had 58 years of membership. Shown from left, back row, are Edward Meilke (58), Charles Yost (58), Lyle Barnhart, Joseph Britten and Ira Hoover. Front row, Charles Newport and Lorenzo Senneff.



At Post 2, Manchester, NH, Robert E. Joyce, Sr., left, pins past post commander's pin on his son, Robert E. Joyce, Jr., as Jack Grady, present commander looks on. Elder Joyce also is past post commander



Legion National Internal Affairs Commission Chairman John M. "Jack" Carey, right, accepts Michigan Minute-man award from Keith Molin, director of Michigan Department of Labor. Carey was cited for promoting Michigan through activities as mayor of Grand Blanc, MI, and The American Legion.

Talking 'Patty Prayer' Doll

now I lay me down to sleep...

Kneels and says her bedtime prayer

Nothing to wind up—no string to pull.
Whenever you want her to she says

*"Now I lay me down to sleep
I pray Thee Lord my soul to keep
Guide me safely through the night
Wake me with the morning light
God bless Mommy... and Daddy
and make me a good girl, Amen."*

Makes a beautiful gift!

Just press her tummy and Patty recites the entire children's bedtime prayer in her precious childlike voice. Almost 20 inches tall, she's soft and lovable and dressed in a silken nylon nightie. Under the nightie her body and arms are cloth covered foam. Hands and head are soft washable vinyl—her beautiful lifelike hair can be combed and styled. Patty's delightful voice comes from a miniature record player in her tummy. Open the zipper on her back to turn the record over and she sings "Brother John"! Operates on a single penlight battery (included). Money back refund if you (and your favorite little girl) are not perfectly delighted.

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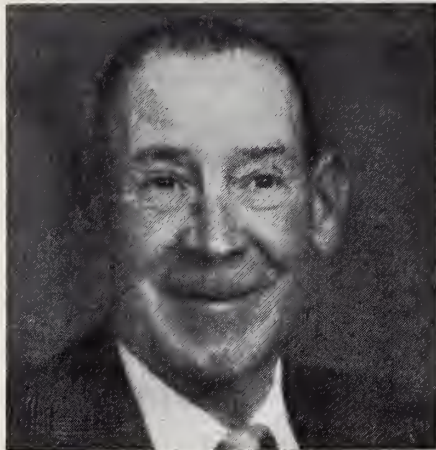
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Who? What? Where?

Robert C. Newell, 66, a member of Legion Post 8, Wash., DC, has been missing since Christmas Eve, 1974 when he disappeared abruptly saying he was going to visit a girlfriend in



Baltimore and brother in Tennessee. Police and others have been unable to find any trace of Newell. Anyone having any knowledge of Newell, photo shown here, is asked to contact Capitol

Hill United Methodist Church, 5th & Pennsylvania Ave., S.E., Wash., DC 20003, or Post 8 at 224 D Street, S.E., Wash., DC 20003.

? ? ?

John Elgin, 88 Ronald Avenue, Bayville, NJ 08721 would like to hear from anyone who served in 60th Ordnance Company (AMMO) or 41st Aero Squadron, Army of Occupation, Germany, in World War I.

? ? ?

A national committee is being formed of former U.S. airmen who were rescued by Gen. Draza Mihailovich and his Chetniks in Yugoslavia during World War II. The group hopes to raise a suitable memorial to Mihailovich. Former airmen in this category can contact Lt. Col. Charles L. Davis, USAFR-Ret., PO Box 462, Falls Church, VA 22046.

? ? ?

James P. Limate, 4 Bradley Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583, would like to hear from anyone serving with Headquarter Battery, 65 AAA GP, Canal Zone, Panama, USAH Artillery, Fort Clayton, from 1948 to 1951.

William D. Biediger, center, freshman at Texas A & M University, was awarded second annual four-year, \$10,000 scholarship by Maj. Gen. John



P. Flynn, left, Commander of AF Military Training Center, Lackland AFB, and by J. Kevin Murphy, right, president of Purolator Services, Inc., which sponsors scholarship for children of POW's and MIA's in Southeast Asia. Award was made in name of Gen. Flynn, who was longest held POW in Southeast Asia.

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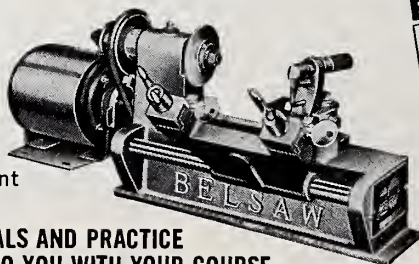
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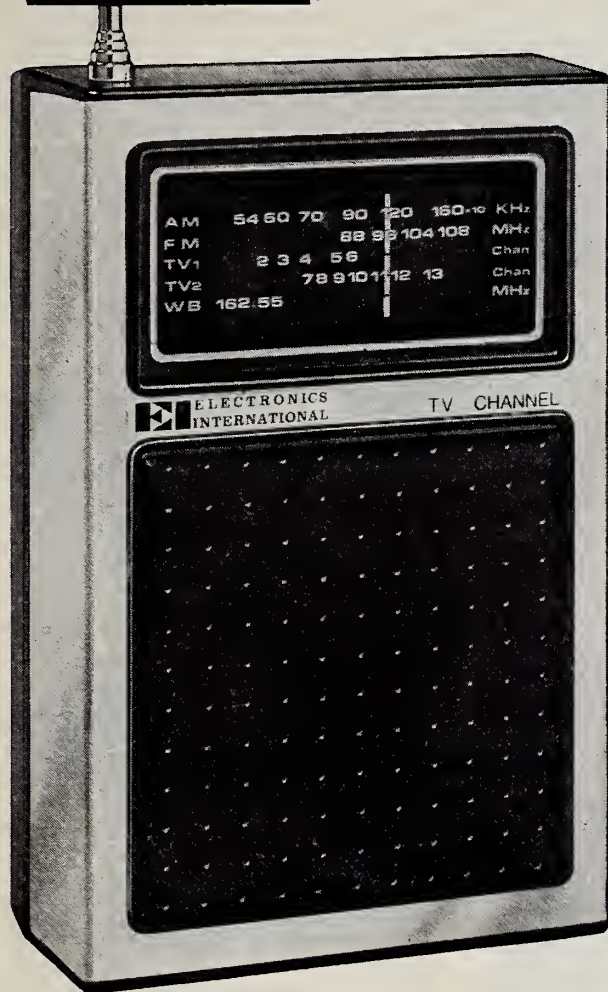
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compared to four days in port to load older, conventional vessels.)

First Mate Robert F. Corcoran, a 35-year merchant marine veteran, standing on the right wing of the bridge, gave "cast off" line instructions via a walkie-talkie as tugs moved the 32,000-ton ship easily from the dock and into the Savannah Channel.

The *AMERICAN LEGION*'s housing, set well aft, gives the ship somewhat the appearance of a tanker. Each container fits snugly into steel cells below deck and is secured tightly on deck with steel lashing systems.

The wheelhouse boasts the most up-to-date equipment, including VHF radio-telephone, radar direction finder, echo sounder, gyro-compass and position fixing device.

Boat and fire drills are frequent. On each passageway is the slogan "Use Safety and Live."

"We live—literally—because we abide by those words," said Bosun Anthony Casey whose work crew aft was putting the finishing touches to a paint job.

A Legionnaire, Casey participated in virtually every battle of the Pa-

cific in World War II, from Bougainville to Okinawa, as a coxswain with Cruiser Division 13. "My lucky number," he said.

After a quarter of a century on various ships in the American merchant marine, Casey mused over "how things have changed."

"We get a much better class of seamen now—family men who have settled down with a home and kids . . . have much more sense of responsibility and are better trained



National Cdr. William Rogers discusses ship with U.S. Lines Pres. E. J. Heine, Jr.

and qualified for their jobs than in the old days," he said.

The Bosun's comfortable quarters contained both radio and television sets as did most of the crew's rooms. TV and radio were turned on much of the time when a man was not on watch (four on-eight off). Reception was excellent, since the ship was only 20 miles off shore.

The crew's quarters are air conditioned; the dinner menu included at least three main courses—steak, chicken, roast beef, assorted cold meats, a soup of the day, dessert, soft drinks, coffee, tea and milk.

"We've even got a lady on board—and she really is a lady," boasted a seaman. "She's probably the best liked lady in the American merchant marine."

Thelma C. Kase is indeed a lady and a solid member of the crew. She waited on tables in the officers' mess.

"I've loved this life for so many years I can't remember," she said, while serving a large slab of lemon meringue pie during dinner. "I've served as a waitress on Moore McCormack Lines' passenger ship *BRA-SIL*, the old Grace Line's luxury liners *SANTA PAULA* and *SANTA ROSA*, as well as others. I'm really serving on this beautiful ship just to get enough time in to get my pension." Then she paused, and added: "It will be a lonely, different world when I do retire after all these years at sea. I won't like it at all."

The *AMERICAN LEGION* knifed effortlessly past Frying Pan Shoals, Diamond Shoal, and Cape Hatteras off the Carolinas; Cape Henry, VA, (Continued on page 42)

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 40)

Our Ship Keeps Her Promise

and Cape May, NJ to New York's Ambrose Light Tower.

"She runs 'filled up' most of the time," said Commodore Alexander-son.

Relaxed and affable during an interview in his quarters, the commodore is considered by his fellow officers as the "finest" in the intricate art of seamanship and ship handling. Under his command since July 1970, the *AMERICAN LEGION* has suffered hardly a scratch.

A New York State Merchant Marine Academy graduate, the commodore joined United States Lines 40 years ago, took time out to serve as an officer aboard Navy cargo-assault vessels in the Atlantic and Pacific in World War II (he's a retired Reserve Rear Admiral), and returned to United States Lines in 1946, serving for a number of years as executive officer and relieving master, first on the passenger ship *AMERICA* and then on the *UNITED STATES*. It was that year, incidentally, that he became a Legionnaire and for the past three decades he has been a member of United States Lines' American Merchant Marine Post 945.

He became permanent master of the *UNITED STATES* and commodore of United States Lines' fleet in 1966, commanding the passenger ship on her transatlantic trips until November 1969, when the luxury liner was retired after nearly 18 years of service. In her glory days, 1,000 passengers cavorted on her decks and Alexanderson dined and wine the world's elite at his captain's table including the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Queen Frederika of Greece, President and Mrs. Eisenhower, Princess Grace and Prince Rainier, former President and Mrs. Truman.

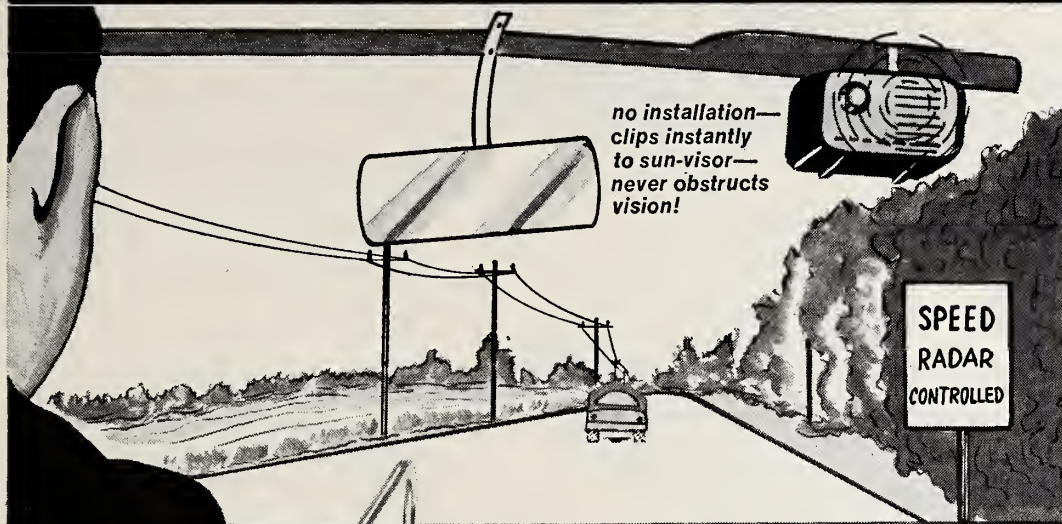
"I've had a fabulous career—never a dull moment," he said. "What has pleased me most is that I have always had a well-trained crew—and, I think, a happy one."

George Ireland, the 35-year-old second mate, agreed.

"Serving on the *AMERICAN LEGION* is like sailing on one of the old whalers," he said. "During our 64-day trip I got on shore just five times." "Nobody goofs off on this ship," another officer said. "They don't have a chance. Our loading-unloading operation works like the fast lens on a camera... just one push of the button, it seems, and we're out to sea again."

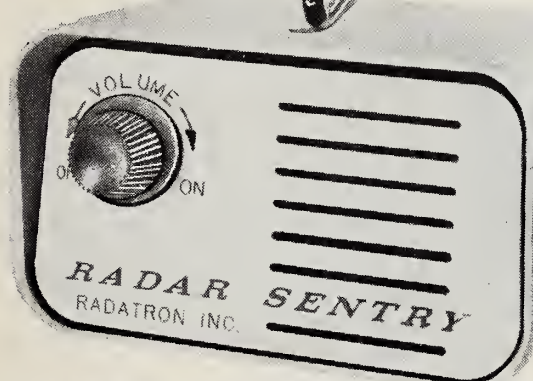
—Meredith S. Buel

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Malcolm J. Roebuck, President

NEWS

TAPS

Herman F. Luhrs, Sr., 82, Kalkaska, MI, Department Commander (1941-42), NECman (1945-47), Public Relations Commission Chairman (1949-53), and National Legislative Commission Chairman (1955-56).

Hermann A. Wenige, 94, Jeffersonville, IN, former editor and publisher of award-winning Post publication, Legion A-I-R, and post service officer for 45 years.

McCulley Ashlock, Newton, KS, NECman (1944-46).

I. E. Lambert, Emporia, KS, first Department Chairman, Adjutant of Kansas (1919); attended St. Louis Caucus.

Stanley A. Van Dyk, 76, Chicago, IL, long-time member of American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Fund Committee (1964-76), and National Commander's representative to the Committee (1958-67).

Mrs. Willis C. (Hope) Reed, Vinita, OK, National Auxiliary President (1950-51).

OUTFIT REUNIONS

NAVY

USS Arizona (BB 36)—(Dec) Joe Potenza, 1201 Avenida Marlene, Tucson, AZ 85713
USS Scribner (122)—(Jan) Wade Stevens, 118 Seville Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15214

AIR FORCE

412th Sqd, 95th Bmb Gp (Comm)—(Mar) Fleming Summers, Box 404, Rosebud, TX 76570
Martin Provis, Gp 8th AF (WW2)—(Jan) Wm. C. Heller, 50 Mounds Rd., #208, San Mateo, CA 94402

American Legion Life Insurance Month Ending August 31, 1976

Benefits paid January 1, 1976—
August 31, 1976 \$ 1,618,308.56
Benefits paid since April 1958. \$21,447,407.13
Basic Units in Force (Number). 168,354.0
New Applications approved
since Jan. 1, 1976 5,508
New Applications Declined 1,945
New Applications Suspended .. 2,132

(Applicants failed to return health form)
The American Legion Life Insurance is an official program of the American Legion, adopted by the National Executive Committee, 1958. It is decreasing term insurance, issued on application to paid-up members of The American Legion subject to approval based on health and employment statement. Effective Jan. 1, 1976, death benefits range from \$60,000 (6 units through age 29, 25 in Ohio) in decreasing steps to \$125 (½ unit at age 75 or over). Previously, maximum was 4 units. This protection is available throughout life, as long as the annual premium is paid, the insured remains a member of The American Legion, and the Plan stays in effect. Available up to six units at a flat rate of \$24 per unit a year on a calendar year basis, pro-rated during the first year at \$2 a month per unit for insurance approved after January 1. Underwritten by two commercial life insurance companies, the Occidental Life Insurance Co. of California and United States Life Insurance Co. in the City of New York. American Legion Life Insurance and Trust Fund is managed by trustees operating under the laws of Missouri. No other insurance may use the full words "American Legion." Administered by The American Legion Life Insurance Division, P.O. Box 5699, Chicago, Illinois 60680, to which write for further details.

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Reliability. Monaco is made to run like clockwork — year after year! The reason? It's carefully crafted by skilled Swiss watchmakers!

Convenience. Now you can forget about messy lathers, looking for electric outlets, replacing or recharging batteries. Everything you need for a close, comfortable shave is right in the palm of your hand!

Maintenance-Free Operation. All parts of this fantastic shaver are made of the very finest materials. The surgical steel blades are self sharpening, so the longer you use them, the better they get. The mainspring is made from the same Swedish Super-Steel used in the finest watches. And to ensure years of trouble-free performance, it's sealed and permanently lubricated.

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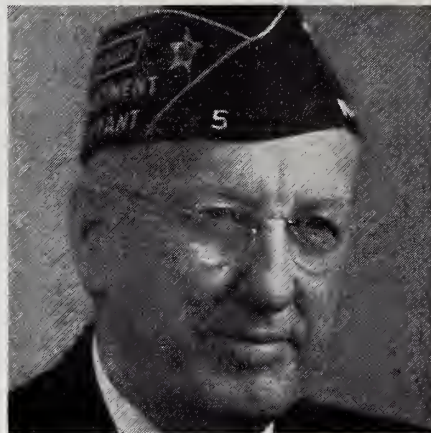
NEWS

James Boyle, November Legionnaire of Month

As a founder of The American Legion, the creator of Maine's Boys State and a prime mover of the GI Bill through Congress, James L. Boyle is selected as Legionnaire of the Month for November. On Aug. 25, he celebrated his 90th birthday.

Known as "Mr. American Legion" among Legionnaires and Auxiliary members in Maine, Boyle was actively involved in the Legion's formation in Paris in 1919. He is a past president of the Society of Founders. He organized the Legion in almost every Maine community and was responsible for formation of the Forty and Eight in that state.

Boyle served with the Yankee Division in World War I. During World War II he led the organization of the



"Ground Observers Corps." He then joined others in pushing the GI Bill through Congress and was active in creating the Bureau of Veterans Services in Maine.

Boyle was the first state adjutant in Maine. In 1964 he retired from that post after 45 years of service. He is still active, keeping a keen eye on Legion activities.

NEW POSTS

The following new posts were recently chartered by The American Legion:

Independence Hall Post 76, Teagu, Korea (Alaska); Tong Du Chon American Legion Post 224, Tong Du Chon, Korea (Alaska); Kings Canyon Post 621, Dunlap, CA; John F. Kennedy Post 61, Berlin, Federated Republic of Germany (France); Mannheim Bicentennial Post 1976, Mannheim, Federated Republic of Germany (France); Captain Federico Padayhag, Sr. Post 95, Pagadian City, Philippines; RP-US Veterans Post 104, Olongapo City, Philippines; and Hico Memorial Post 432, Hico, TX.

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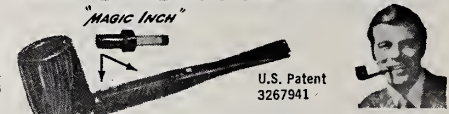
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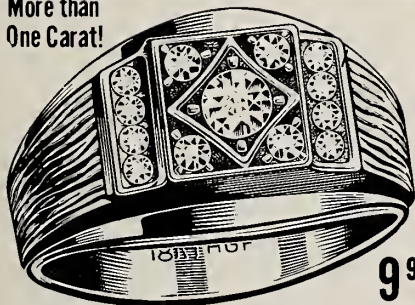
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Alex Gotfryd

PERSONAL

THE CREDIT UNION BOOM. VIEWING THE FINANCIAL PICTURE. SOME MONEY-SAVING CLUES.

Money-conscious consumers are fueling a boom in credit unions—now the fastest growing type of financial institution in the United States (statistically, at least). This year credit unions will wind up with a membership over 32 million and deposits of about \$35 billion.

The big lure of credit unions is that they are nonprofit cooperatives, hence can make loans at lower rates than commercial institutions while paying out somewhat more liberally on savings.

- People with a "common bond," such as employee groups, can pool their resources to found their own financial establishment. **Experience shows that it takes about 200 to make a go of it.** Unlike bank deposits, monies put into a credit union technically are ownership "shares" and the interest paid out (it varies in a 6 per cent to 7 per cent range) actually is a "dividend."

- A credit union pays no federal income taxes, and often gets free quarters and the benefit of voluntary help.

- **Members can get loans—secured or unsecured—much more readily than at a bank.** Moreover, loans are not contingent on how much a member has paid into the credit union.

- "Deposits" (i.e., shares) in some credit unions are federally insured up to \$40,000, others are state insured. **Credit unions are looking for areas beyond their traditional small-loan business—mortgages, and the equivalent of credit cards and checking accounts.**

★ ★ ★

Although inflation hasn't been kicking up much recently (and probably won't for a while), several bad actors are worth keeping an eye on: **Personal income taxes** (which shot up about 12 per cent in the past year), **medical expenses** (up 11 per cent) and **transportation** (up 9 per cent). Two of them—medical expenses and transportation—are continuing their upward march.

During this fall and winter, another big-ticket trio can eat into your pocketbook: autos and home-heating fuels (gas and oil).

Auto prices likely will average out to about \$300 more than last year.

As for home-heating fuels, natural gas costs look highly volatile. They could go up about 6 per cent. On top of that, there may be shortages.

Heating oil will be in plentiful supply, but the size of price hikes remains uncertain until about the first of next year, when you'll know whether foreign producers will boost tags again and whether domestic supplies will be allowed to go up.

Government statisticians say the cost-of-living picture for the average American family now looks like this:

- A no-frills budget for four people comes to about \$9,800.
- At the intermediate level, it's a bit over \$15,000.
- A comfortable living—without luxuries—adds up to \$22,500.

★ ★ ★

Clues that may save you money:

EYEGLASSES: It pays to shop around before buying, because the location of a retailer usually has a major bearing on the prices he charges. Also, in single-vision glasses (but not bifocals or trifocals) the lens is far less of a cost factor than the fanciness of the frames. Two other considerations could be in your favor: 1) many shops give special discounts to senior citizens, and 2) some retailers, particularly in highly competitive spots, give sizable reductions to Legionnaires and their families.

MOVING: Under new interstate laws, a mover has to figure damages on the basis of an article's replacement cost (adjusted for wear and tear)—not on original cost. Because of inflation, replacement cost almost always is much higher, so you should come out better. Also, movers now are responsible for damage caused by any subcontractors they employ.

By Edgar A. Grunwald

BOOKS THAT MATTER

Surgeon Under The Knife, by William A. Nolen, M.D. Coward, McCann & Geoghegan, Inc., publisher, New York, NY, 223 pp., \$8.95.

A well-known doctor and author writes about his own experiences when he had to undergo surgery for a by-pass operation on his heart. We learn how he viewed his prospects for treatment and recovery, how he selected a doctor and hospital, how he felt about relatives and friends during that stressful time, and his reactions to the medical care he received before and after entering the hospital. Dr. Nolen has some words also about the backbreaking costs of good health care that face all of us today—even doctors.

Keep The Last Bullet for Yourself, by Thomas B. Marquis. Two Continents Pub. Group, Ltd., New York, NY, 191 pp., \$8.95.

On June 25, 1876, the year of our nation's Centennial, Gen. George Custer with 213 men of the Seventh Cavalry, four of them relatives, caught up with Sioux and Cheyenne warriors he'd been pursuing. Instead of achieving a great victory, the Custer command was annihilated. For the ensuing 100 years the causes and circumstances of that defeat have been debated. In his book, written in 1934 but not published until this Bicentennial year, the author attempts to settle the question once and for all. Was the total defeat of Custer's column caused by such all-encompassing terror of Indian torture that when they knew they couldn't win or run the soldiers turned to suicide? Unbelievable! Not according to this controversial view of the Battle of Little Bighorn.

Sports In America, by James A. Michener. Random House, publisher, New York, NY, 451 pp., \$12.50

Michener seeks to define what sports mean to us as individuals and as a nation. Looking first at personal participation, he then moves on to sports in the general arena: how they are affected by the media, government involvement, violence, financial needs, college and university pressures. Then there's the dilemma of the over-the-hill athlete.

It's a serious look at today's athletic world, as well as a fine tribute to the contributions sports can make to our own lives.—*Grail Hanford*

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)

Santa is a Vet

In 1941, immediately after Pearl Harbor, Jim Yellig, at the age of 47, enlisted in his second world war. The Navy assigned him to head a crew running LSTs built in Evansville—40 miles away—down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans. But he managed to get back to Santa Claus each December to help answer the mail, and, of course, to don the white beard and red costume for the church festival.

Then, after V-J Day in 1945, a retired Evansville businessman named Louis J. Koch bought a 260-acre tract of Santa Claus' wooded hills and set out to build Santa Claus Land. Jim Yellig didn't have to apply for the job of park Santa. Who else could they choose?

A recent visitor asked Yellig if, at 82, he planned to make this his last season.

"How can Santa Claus retire?" he replied. "I'll keep wearing this uniform as long as the kids want me."

When a child asks for a particular Christmas present, Jim never puts the parents on a spot. He tells the youngster "Look under the tree on Christmas morning, and you'll find a surprise."

He still works on letters to Santa Claus, handling those from foreign countries. One came last year from a young Russian girl asking Santa to bring her a cowboy suit. Most "want list" letters ordinarily are answered only with a letter from Santa. Yellig dug into his own pocket, bought the Russian girl her cowgirl duds, and sent off the package with a request for a receipt showing it had been delivered. He soon had a receipt for the carton that was delivered somewhere in Russia with a sticker on it announcing that it was a gift from The American Legion, Santa Claus, IN, Post 242.

Today, the Santa Claus Post Office is an attractive one-story building resembling a medieval stone castle, like a fairy tale illustration. Last year Postmistress Marianne Schaaf channeled 100,000 "Dear Santa" letters to the Legion. She also handled a mountain of packages that annually start arriving in November. The cartons contain stamped and addressed Christmas cards to be re-mailed so they'll bear the intriguing Santa Claus, IN, postmark. Last year, she remained more than 3 million.

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Trail Riding

Riding horseback along trails through remote wilderness forests and camping each night on the bank of some mountain stream, is a sport enjoyed by thousands of outdoorsmen. There's no better way to visit the back-country where Nature's wonders are still untouched by civilization. Hiking such distances over mountainous country is only for those with time to spare and sufficient physical endurance, not for an office worker with a week's vacation. But 20 miles per day is a leisurely pace for a horse and rider. Pack mules or horses carry the food and many of the comforts of home. Imagine sitting before a campfire under the stars, eating steak and drinking your favorite beverage—50 miles or more away from the nearest highway!

You don't have to be a horseman to go on a trail ride. If you've never ridden before, you'll be given a quiet, safe, sure-footed mount that will happily follow its leader. A Wyoming trail ride several years ago included an 82-year-old woman who'd never been on a horse. She was helped into the saddle, the horse was led around the field a couple of times, then she rode off with the other riders. Afterward she reported she'd never had a more enjoyable vacation. To locate wranglers who offer pleasure rides, contact the tourist department of the State you're interested in visiting. Also the *Trail Riders of the Wilderness*, a division of the American Forestry Association, 1319 18th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; it conducts many such rides each year through the most scenic areas of our country. But reservations must be made as soon as possible after its ride schedule is issued every January. Prices vary from about \$250 for a trip lasting several days to \$450 a week.

Always tell the wrangler in advance how much riding experience you've had, and he will select the right horse for you. He'll also advise you what to bring, such as your sleeping bag, heavy jacket for chilly weather, a rain slicker, insect repellent, etc. Among your personal items you must include tobacco and any special medication you may require. You needn't worry about adequate medical attention in an emergency; on every ride the wrangler will have an expert in first-aid, and perhaps a licensed doctor. Do not confuse the *pleasure* trail rides with *competition* and *endurance* trail rides, which are limited to expert horsemen and horse-owners. Information on these will be supplied, on request, by the sources named above.

TWO thumb tacks or rivets placed on the gunwale or seat of your fishing

boat, the distance between them being the legal size limit for keepers, will solve your measuring problems, writes Don Basset of Dunnellon, Fla. On a two-man boat use two pairs, a pair for each angler.

YOU won't have to launder your sleeping bags so often if you use liners, according to Betsy Inman of Ithaca, N.Y. For cold weather, use flannel; a cotton sheet in summer. Make the liner like a large pocket, sewn on three sides and open at the top.

GROOVES worn in the guides of your fishing rod sometimes have sharp edges that can damage your line. Replacing the guides is the best remedy, but Robin Ehrig of Tamaqua, Pa. has an emergency cure. He grinds down the sharp edges with the striker part of a package of paper matches. It acts like emery paper.

MAKE your own fishing rod case, designed by Mrs. Merle Browning of Council Bluffs, Iowa. She uses a hard, tubular container used for shipping curtain rods, available in most hardware stores. Then she covers it with bright, plastic stick-on-contact material to make it waterproof and colorful. End caps come with the containers.

If you have a helpful idea for this feature send it in. If we can use it we'll pay you \$5.00. However, we cannot acknowledge, return, or enter into correspondence concerning contributions. Address: Outdoor Editor, The American Legion Magazine, 1608 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

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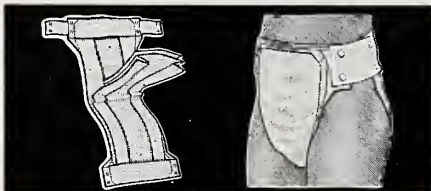
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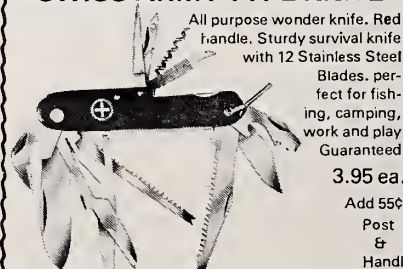
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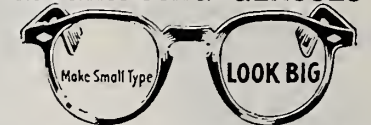
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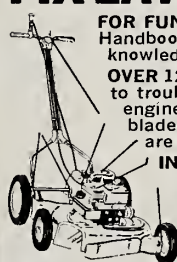


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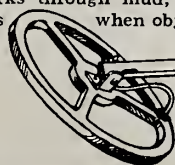
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"Since the railroads lose money on every passenger, I decided to fly and not complicate things."

GENE YASENAK

SPACED OUT

A man, startled to read his own death notice in the paper, immediately called his friend.

"Hey," he said, "Did you see the notice of my death in the morning paper?"

"Yes, I did," replied his friend. "Where are you calling from?"

LUCILLE S. HARPER

VICIOUS CIRCLE

The states are asking for federal aid, the Government is asking for taxpayer aid, and the taxpayers are applying for welfare. This is known as the economic cycle.

MARY L. MARTIN

SHAPE OF THINGS

Our educational system is really in bad shape. It's bad enough when Johnny can't read but now Elizabeth can't type.

D. O. FLYNN

RUDE AWAKENING

When the bloom of romance fades away, many a gal finds she's married to an appetite in need of a shave.

LUCILLE J. GOODYEAR

VISIBLE DIFFERENCE

Hospital patient in traction, to visitor: "It was only a fender bender until I disagreed with his bumper sticker."

G. G. CRABTREE

QUADRUPED BIRDS

They've developed a turkey
With a wide plump breast,
But what about people
Who prefer the rest?
There'll never be enough
Drumsticks to go around
Until a bird is created
With four feet on the ground.

BETH COOK

SLOW CULTURE

The woman who wants a perfect husband will have to grow him. She should allow at least 30 years for the process.

THOMAS LAMANCE

NEW MATH

My wife's checkbook
Makes my face pall.
How can she subtract
Large figures from the small?

HOMER PHILLIPS

PROVE IT

Legally, a husband is the head of the house and a pedestrian has the right of way. Both are perfectly safe and within their rights as long as they do not try to confirm it.

GEORGE E. BERGMAN

RECYCLED SOUND

If some modern music
Makes your ears feel erratic,
It's because what you hear
Was once known as static.

MILTON S. DOANE

LEASH LOGIC

Anyone who wants to run another's life should get a dog.

LYMAN L. ROSS

BLISSFUL IGNORANCE

Some folks brag of "expertise,"
While others "speak with authority";
But I find horse sense all I need—
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ROSEMARIE WILLIAMSON



THE AMERICAN LEGION MAGAZINE



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